THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST

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DEDICATION OF THE ARCHIVAL SECTION OF THE ALABAMA WORLD WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING[1]

WE HAVE MET this afternoon to dedicate those portions of this beautiful building that have been set aside for the use of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. All of us are fully aware of the significance of this event. The establishment of this department in 1901 has been called "a new venture in political science" in the United States. Historical societies dedicated to analogous purposes had appeared much earlier in our history and had rendered and are still rendering indispensable service to American scholarship and culture, but those societies were private or semi-public institutions supported in part, at least, by membership fees and endowments from private sources and did not usually have the custody of public archives. The Alabama department, on the other hand, was the first archival agency established in the United States as an official organ of a government. The full significance of this fact becomes apparent when we recall that today the federal government and nearly every state in the Union have followed the example thus set by the state of Alabama.

A philosopher once said that an institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man's life. No better illustration of this truth can be found than the Alabama Department of Archives and History. This is the brain-child of Thomas M. Owen, for it was he who brought it into existence, nourished it through the weakness of infancy, directed its growth into strength and vigor, and indelibly stamped upon it the qualities of his own mind and character. The idea expressed in this building and the purposes to which it is dedicated, like most ideas that find expression in some concrete form, were not the result of theory but of experience. Although trained to the law, Dr. Owen in early life found his interests running strongly to history. He had

[1] Address read at the fourth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Montgomery, Alabama, November 11, 1940.

already manifested a deep interest in the history of his native state when in 1894 an opportunity came to him to enter the service of the government in Washington. Without hesitation he gave up his growing law practice in Alabama because he realized the opportunities that would be opened to him by a brief sojourn at the nation's capital. There he would have access to the rich sources for historical research at the Library of Congress and association with eminent publicists and scholars whose interests were similar to his own. Into this circle, composed of such men as Stephen B. Weeks, Colyer Merriwether, Thomas Nelson Page, and, at times, Walter Hines Page, he found ready and welcome admittance. One of the first fruits of his association with these men was the organization of the Southern Historical Association, which for many years was a powerful factor in stimulating historical interests in the South.

At every opportunity to escape from the grind of his duties in the Post Office Department, young Owen would hasten to the Library of Congress, where for two years he labored diligently and happily at the compilation of bibliographies of Alabama and her sister state of Mississippi. This work brought him into close and friendly relations with Dr. Ainsworth R. Spofford, librarian of Congress, under whose direction Owen did his work. Spofford probably exercised a greater influence upon Owen's professional career than any other person. He was, says his biographer, "perhaps the most widely renowned of the librarians of the old school, who took, or seemed to take, all that was between the covers [of their books] as their own province." His marvelous memory made him "an unfailing source of factual knowledge to official and unofficial Washington" and "a conspicuous and even unique member of various cultural and learned societies" in that city. With Spofford and the other members of his circle of friends, Dr. Owen discussed books, delved deeply into the mysteries of research, imbibed the spirit of true scholarship, and greatly broadened his historical outlook.

Three years of such experience proved a liberal education for the young scholar from the deep South and when he returned to Alabama in 1897 he was fully resolved to desert the dreary science of Solon for the more congenial service of Clio. The South was notoriously indifferent to the preservation of the sources of its history and Dr. Owen believed that he could render no more valuable service to his people than to arouse them from their lethargy in this matter. To this task he set his hand and heart and mind with all the

enthusiasm of the neophyte. A fortunate incident paved the way for him. Calling upon an official at the capitol one day shortly after his return to the state, he noticed that the door to the office was propped open by an old book. His indignation at this desecration was aroused when upon examination he found the book to be nothing less than a bound volume containing the "original telegrams sent by Gov. A. B. Moore to various military leaders, state and national, during the first year of the Confederacy." Then and there the Alabama Department of Archives and History was conceived.

Aroused by this example of an archival crime, Dr. Owen began his attack upon an indifferent officialdom. He prepared his case with painstaking thoroughness. Everybody knew that Alabama had a great history, but few realized that knowledge of that history was based chiefly on tradition and, therefore, lacked much in fullness and accuracy because of the lack of available source materials. During the two centuries of her history, Alabama had made and accumulated valuable records of her life and development, but nobody seemed to know how voluminous they were, where they could be found, or how well they were being cared for. Tom Owen, however, had an inquisitive mind. He wanted to know the facts, and he began to investigate. Those of us who have followed along the path that he trod know well enough what he discovered—a trail of destruction left by careless officials and inexperienced clerks; the throwing of valuable official records into tow sacks to be hauled away and dumped into warehouses in order to make room for current files; the losses and deterioration that even the current files were suffering from inadequate protection and official indifference.

As a lawyer and as a scholar, Dr. Owen knew the potential value to both the state and its citizens of official correspondence, orders, reports, account books, land grants, judicial proceedings, legislative journals, laws, and other public records however old they might be. As a lawyer, he knew that government officials are dependent upon such records for the orderly conduct of public business and the protection of public interests; that the citizen finds in them the evidence of his rights and liberties—his right to vote, his right to the land on which he lives, his right to carry on business, his right to inherit and devise property, his right to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of worship. As a scholar, Dr. Owen knew that such records are the chief sources of the history of the state and its people, that many of them have inestimable sentimental and cultural

value, and that a people who are indifferent to their past need not hope to make their future great.

Armed with facts and equipped with arguments, Dr. Owen carried his war into Africa. With a bill for the establishment of a Department of Archives and History in his pocket, he invaded the capitol, besieged representatives, sandbagged senators, and captured the governor. His bill, having jumped all the legislative hurdles, finally reached the desk of the governor, who approved it on February 27, 1901; five days later the department was organized and Dr. Owen entered upon his duties as director which were to terminate only with his death twenty years later.

Dr. Owen's conception of the objects and purposes of the department is set forth in a section of the organic act. They are:

> the care and custody of official archives, the collection of materials bearing upon the history of the State, and of the territory included therein, from the earliest times, the completion and publication of the State's official records and other historical materials, the diffusion of knowledge in reference to the history and resources of the State, [and] the encouragement of historical work and research. . . .

It would be difficult to improve this statement, and there are probably few of us who afterwards drafted similar legislation for our own states who did not incorporate it almost *verbatim* into our bills. At least, I can speak for one of them.

The beginnings of the Alabama department were modest. An annual appropriation of $3,000 was deemed sufficient for all purposes and the senate cloakroom adequate as an archival depository. Undaunted by this unpromising outlook, the director set to work. His first drive was upon heads of executive and administrative departments to persuade them to transfer their noncurrent records to the archives department. From all sorts of sources he collected manuscripts, books, newspapers, museum objects, and portraits of famous Alabamians. Soon the senate cloakroom was bursting with Owen's collections and legislators were beginning to fear that unless they gave him more space, he would take over the halls of legislation and perhaps the offices of the governor and other officials. You may think this statement somewhat exaggerated, but how else, by any accepted canon of historical interpretation, can you explain the fact that in 1903 the alarmed lawmakers were induced to appropriate $150,000 for the enlargement of the capitol? Upon the completion of the first of the new wings, Dr. Owen immediately moved in, and

with characteristic self-restraint took over *only* one-half of the basement for his archives and one-half of the second floor for his other activities. Doubtless grateful officials of the government were duly appreciative of his consideration in leaving the other half of the wing for the use of some half-dozen other departments. But the end was not yet. Within a decade the stream of material which continued to flow into the Department of Archives and History burst forth from its narrow confines in the capitol and overflowed into five buildings which then stood on the block now occupied by this building in which we are assembled.

This memorial building is the capstone of Dr. Owen's work and like the Department of Archives and History owes its existence to his inspiration. The year 1919 in which the idea, of which it is the concrete expression, began to take shape in his mind, was the centennial year of the admission of Alabama into the federal Union. It was also the year in which Alabama's "Doughboys," leaving 1,698 of their comrades quietly sleeping in the poppy fields of Flanders, came home from the World War, in which they had added new glory to the history of their state. A grateful people wished to commemorate their services to the state and nation by some fitting memorial. What more suitable form could such a memorial take than a beautiful building as enduring as the marble in their everlasting hills, erected "to commemorate the part of Alabama and Alabamians in the World War" and devoted to the preservation of the records of their heroism and patriotism?

The necessary legislation was passed, a commission was created to carry the legislative will into effect, and Dr. Owen was made its executive officer. Although he died within a year after the creation of the commission, I am sure that it can be said, without injustice to his associates, that it was largely his inspiration in the initial stages of the project that enabled them to carry it to a successful conclusion.

Dr. Owen's death on March 25, 1920, would have been a far greater loss to both the Department of Archives and History and the Memorial Commission had there not been immediately available as his successor one who had been at his side from the very conception of his plans and was familiar with every step he had taken in their development. No other knew so well as she his hard struggles and sacrifices in the early days of small things, no other had been a more sympathetic counselor and guide in the days of the larger things, and no other understood more clearly his plans for the future.

As his tasks fell from his hands, she was ready to take them up, and I am sure that you are all happy to join me today in paying tribute to the courage and skill with which she has guided them to their present triumphant success.

There is one other phase of Dr. Owen's work and character to which I must refer. He was the courageous pioneer who blazed the trail through the wilderness along which the rest of us have followed. No matter how hard his own problems pressed upon him, he was never too busy or too weary to reach out a helping hand to his younger and less experienced colleagues. I was one of those colleagues who was able to make headway through the archival wilderness only because he had been the trail blazer, and I hope you will pardon me if I inject a personal note into these remarks. In 1907 I became the first full-time, salaried secretary of the recently established Historical Commission of North Carolina. Never was a less competent amateur called upon to do a professional's job. Fortunately, I had sense enough to realize my shortcomings and in search of guidance I jumped the first train that left Raleigh after my appointment and headed for Montgomery.

Though Dr. Owen had never seen me before and must have considered me a nuisance, he greeted me with all the kindness of an older brother. I found him installed in his cramped quarters in the capitol, literally lost to view behind great mountains of disorderly masses of documents, which had been piling up on him so rapidly and in such volume as would have discouraged a less determined man. As you can well imagine, there was little I could learn from this situation about archival organization, arrangement, classification, or cataloguing, nor did I have the slightest comprehension of what he was talking about when he discussed the principle of provenance, *respect pour les fonds,* and other archival mysteries. Nevertheless, my visit to him was one of the most profitable experiences of my life. It was not what he had done, nor what he said that dwells with me today; it was what he was. He was energy, he was enthusiasm, he was courage, he was vision, he was faith, he was inspiration, and when I reluctantly bade him good-bye I knew in my heart that some day he would build here in Montgomery one of the great archival institutions of our country. I count it a rare privilege, indeed, to be able to come back to Montgomery after thirty-three years to witness the realization of his dreams as we see them here today.

An eminent European scholar once observed, "The care which a

nation devotes to the preservation of the monuments of its past may serve as a true measure of the degree of civilization to which it has attained." Chief among the monuments of a people's past are their works of art and their written records. They happen also to be the most perishable. Primitive people sometimes execute crude works of art, apparently to gratify their urge for self-expression, but with no thought of preserving them. Such people do not make records for the purpose of preserving information for the benefit of future generations. They are too much absorbed in the more urgent tasks of procuring food, shelter, clothing, and security. It is only when their primitive needs are assured, when problems of private property and personal rights begin to emerge, when release from physical labor leaves them time for leisure, that people begin to make and preserve records. At first simple and crude because reflecting the life of a simple and crude society, such records increase in variety and complexity as the society itself becomes more highly developed. The character and volume of its records, therefore, reflect the culture of the society that creates them.

When we consider the foresight of the state of Alabama in creating her Department of Archives and History, her interest in collecting and making available for use the records of her past, and her generosity in providing this magnificent building for their preservation, may we not say that Alabama may be well content to point to them as the true measure of the degree of culture and civilization to which her people have attained?

R. D. W. Connor

Archivist of the United States

THE TRAINING OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS[1]

BEFORE the training that is essential or desirable for professional work with archives can be intelligently discussed it is necessary to understand what the job of a public archivist is. Essentially it consists of the appraising, selecting, assembling, rehabilitating, preserving, arranging, describing, and facilitating the use of such records of the agencies of the government served as are no longer needed for frequent consultation by those agencies but should nevertheless be preserved because of possible administrative, legal, or historical value to the government or to its citizens. While there are some obvious similarities between that job and the job of the librarian, there are important differences, most of which arise out of the differences in the character of the materials with which the two professions are concerned. The official or legal significance and organic character of archives constitute perhaps the primary difference between them and ordinary library books, but the physical differences are also important. Books are usually provided with title pages, tables of contents, and prefaces, and their component parts are usually bound together or conveniently numbered. Each book, or at least each work, comprises a convenient unit of treatment. Archival materials, and also historical manuscripts, lack these conveniences. A single document in a body of modern archives is as a rule no more a proper unit of treatment than would be a single leaf, or at least a single chapter, of a book. The archivist must determine the interrelations of his documents, identify the appropriate units for treatment, and explain what they are, not merely catalogue them; and all without benefit of title pages, tables of contents, and prefaces. If he attempts to treat each document as a unit for cataloguing and classification according to some subject or alphabetical or chronological scheme, he will not only find himself involved in an interminable task, but he will probably impair the value of his material by destroying the series or groups to which it belongs.

The body of knowledge that the archivist should have at his command in order to do this job effectively may for purposes of con-

[1] This paper, which was read before the Society of American Archivists on November 12, 1940, is a revision of a paper entitled "Essentials in Training for Work with Public Archives and Historical Manuscript Collections," which was read on a joint program on archives and libraries under the auspices of the American Library Association on May 29, 1940, and has been published in that association's annual publication entitled *Archives and Libraries* for 1940.

venience be called archival science. It is an applied science rather than a pure science, of course, and, like medical science, it is compounded of parts of many other sciences or fields of knowledge, together with certain principles and techniques derived from practical experience.

That the archivist should be well-grounded in history, and especially the history of the country or district he serves, is fairly obvious; also that he should know the current workings of his government and especially of those agencies of that government from which the records in his custody are derived. Equally important is a more specialized subject which might be considered a part of either history or government but is usually included in neither, that is, administrative history or the history of the government and the agencies through which it has operated and which have created its archives.

That the archivist needs to understand the historical method—a method of research that is used not only by historians but also by the social sciences and the humanities and to some extent by the natural scientists—if he is to function effectively, is obvious. That means that he must have an acquaintance with the so-called auxiliary sciences of history. Granting that the American archivist does not need the intensive training in diplomatics, paleography, sphragistics, linguistics, chronology, and the like that is given to European archivists, nevertheless, he needs to have a speaking acquaintance with them and to know that they have applications to modern as well as to ancient and medieval documents. He ought at least to know that diplomatics is concerned with the forms of documents and not with diplomacy.

Besides this essential background knowledge that all archivists should have, each individual archivist usually finds that it is necessary for him to know something about the special fields of knowledge to which the documents in his custody relate. A custodian of the archives of a labor bureau needs a knowledge of economics; of census records, statistics; of court records, law; of military records, military science; of weather bureau records, meteorology; and so on. It cannot be expected, of course, that the archivist will be well-grounded in advance in all these fields, but it is evident that he needs a broad general education and the ability to orient himself in any field of knowledge when the occasion arises.

The more specialized knowledge needed by the archivist, which

might be designated as archival economy or archives administration, should include not only the theoretical and practical conclusions that have been reached by archivists as a result of their observations and experiences but also the history of the development of systems of administering records and archives and of theories concerning them. This historical approach is necessary in order that the archivist may better understand his function in society through a knowledge of how it has developed. Two other approaches are obviously desirable, however: One, which is a logical culmination of the historical approach, is the study of present practices with reference to archives in the principal countries and institutions of the world; and the other is the subject or topical approach. No generally accepted systematic organization of archival economy by topics has been evolved as yet, but the following has been found to be a workable outline: (1) the nature and value of archives; (2) the making of archives; (3) the status and functions of archival agencies; (4) internal organization; (5) buildings and equipment; (6) the recruitment and training of personnel; (7) the appraisal and selection of archival material; (8) the preservation and rehabilitation of archival material; (9) the arrangement and description of archival material; (10) the reproduction of archival material, including copying by hand or by typewriter, or reproduction by photographic processes; (11) the editing and publishing of archival documents; (12) the service of archives, including exhibitions; (13) problems arising in connection with special types of archival deposits, such as local archives, business archives, and church archives; and (14) problems arising in connection with special physical types of archival material, such as maps, motion and still pictures, and sound recordings.

If such is the knowledge that an archivist needs, the question that arises at once is, How may this knowledge be acquired? In Europe, and especially on the Continent, where archival work has long been recognized as a distinct profession, schools for the training of archivists, such as the famous École des Chartes in Paris, have been in operation for many years. These schools give advanced training in history and historical methods, and especially the auxiliary sciences of history, as well as courses on the history of archives and archival economy. Where the schools are associated with archival establishments, as most of them are, the students usually gain some practical experience as they are taking their courses, and as a rule a period of apprenticeship or internship is required after the completion of the

formal training before the students are recognized as professional archivists.

Since few Americans who wish to become archivists can avail themselves of the training to be had in these European schools, even in normal times, it is important to consider to what extent they can obtain the desirable training in this country. It is obvious that most of the general or background knowledge can be obtained in the departments of history and the social sciences of our larger graduate schools, though more courses on administrative history should be offered and more attention should be given to the auxiliary sciences of history and especially their applications to modern materials.

For the study of archival economy, the fact that there exists a considerable body of literature on the subject is of outstanding importance. This literature is hard to find, however; most of it is not available in English, and some of it is to be found in this country only in a few large libraries, if at all. There is need for more bibliographical work in this field, such as the *Selected References on Phases of Archival Economy,* produced by the National Archives as No. 6 of its *Staff Information Circulars;* of more translations, such as Dr. Leavitt's translation of the Dutch *Manual for the Arrangement and Description of Archives* (New York. H. W. Wilson Company, 1940); of the building up of more adequate collections in libraries; and finally of the preparation and publication of a manual designed especially for American archivists.

The desirability of providing somewhere in this country specialized training for archivists was pointed out by Dr. Waldo G. Leland as long ago as 1909, but, despite the growing interest in archival matters, none of our institutions rose to the occasion and the staff of the National Archives had to be recruited without benefit of specialized training. Some attention had long been given, of course, in seminars and in courses devoted to historical methodology, to archives as materials for historical research; and a special course dealing with archives primarily from this point of view was inaugurated at Harvard University in 1937. The first course designed primarily for the training of archivists to be offered in this country appears to have been the course given by the present writer at Columbia University during 1938-1939. This course, which was entitled "Archives and Historical Manuscripts," dealt with the history and administration of archives in the principal countries of the world and with special topics in archival economy approximately as outlined above. For

financial reasons Columbia University was unable to continue this course, but a course on archival economy was given last summer in the Library School of Columbia University by Miss Margaret C. Norton, of the Archives Division of the Illinois State Library.

The arrival in Washington in the summer of 1939 of Dr. Ernst Posner, who had had extensive experience as a professional archivist in the Prussian Privy State Archives and as a teacher in the school for archivists connected with that institution, made possible the initiation of a program for the training of archivists in the national capital. Dr. Posner was appointed professor of archives administration in the Graduate School of the American University, and arrangements were made for the offering jointly by that institution and the National Archives of a course entitled "The History and Administration of Archives" to be given by Dr. Posner and the writer, which covers essentially the same ground as the course given at Columbia University the previous year. In the academic year 1939-1940 four students took this course for credit at the American University, and, in addition, fifteen others, mostly members of the staff of the National Archives, took it as auditors. In addition Dr. Posner gave a course in methods and materials in modern history at the American University which provided excellent background material for prospective archivists.

The apparent success of this experiment led the Carnegie Corporation, through the American Council of Learned Societies, to provide financial assistance for a period of three years that has made possible the offering of a more comprehensive program for the training of archivists in Washington. The courses given last year are being repeated this year, and in addition courses are offered by the American University in co-operation with the National Archives on comparative administrative history (by Dr. Posner), on the administrative history of the federal government (by Dr. Louis Hunter), and on the administration of current records in government offices (by Miss Helen L. Chatfield, Treasury Department archivist). The total registration in the four courses given during the present semester is thirty-five. Numerous courses in history and the social sciences offered at the American University and at other institutions in Washington are appropriate to provide background training for prospective archivists, and students who have prepared themselves to profit thereby will be given opportunities for advanced study of archival problems and archival administration as interns at the National

Archives. It is the hope of the writer and Dr. Posner that they will be able, during the three-year period for which this program is financed, to prepare an American manual of archival economy.

There is no reason why the development of this program should discourage graduate schools outside of Washington from arranging programs, of background courses at least, for the training of archivists, and the offering by some of them of specialized courses in co-operation with state archival agencies should be encouraged. It may be pointed out, moreover, that a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy in history or one of the social sciences in any of our larger graduate schools, who has had appropriate background courses and desires to qualify for a career as an archivist, could profitably spend one of his years of graduate study in Washington, taking some of the specialized work now available there and making use of the resources of Washington in research for his thesis.

Since most practicing archivists in this country have not had adequate professional training of the sort here proposed and numerous others without such training will probably be appointed to archival positions in the future, it should be pointed out that, while experience alone cannot make one a professional archivist any more than could experience in the practice of medicine without theoretical training qualify one to be a physician, nevertheless experience coupled with extensive and intensive individual study might give one the equivalent of such training. Practicing archivists whose background or theoretical training is incomplete should be encouraged, therefore, to engage in such study, and, whenever the staffs are large enough to justify, in-service training programs should be conducted. The National Archives has been experimenting for about two years with in-service training courses, and the consensus of opinion seems to be that they have been valuable both to the institution and to the individual students. Some of these have been divisional seminars designed, as a rule, to promote study of the special problems of the divisions as well as of archival science in general, and others, open to any qualified members of the staff, have been devoted to the study of such phases of archival science as federal administrative history, records in the National Archives as materials for research, and the arrangement and description of archival material.

A question that inevitably arises whenever the training of archivists is under consideration is, What are the prospects that those who prepare themselves for careers as archivists will be able to find

employment in their chosen profession? It must be admitted that no considerable number of appointments are likely to be made in the National Archives in the near future and that most of the vacancies in higher positions there will probably be filled by promotion from within. All new appointments are made from Civil Service registers, and the commission has already given an examination for junior archivist (initial salary $2,000), which has provided a register of eligibles. Other examinations will doubtless be given from time to time, and it is reasonable to suppose that competent people who have had training for archival work will be more likely than others to attain high rank on the resultant registers and to be selected for appointments. More promising, perhaps, than these prospects is the evident trend, resulting in part, at least, from the example of the National Archives and the activities of the Historical Records Survey, in the direction of the establishment of state, municipal, county, institutional, and business archival agencies, and the expansion and reorganization on a more professional basis of those that already exist. Moreover, the training proposed for archivists is sufficiently broad to fit those who take it for professional work in manuscript and other specialized divisions of libraries, in the Historic Sites Branch of the National Park Service, in historical societies, and in research institutes in the fields of history and the social sciences. Finally it should be noted that such training would add to rather than detract from the qualifications of those who take it for teaching positions in colleges and universities. It is always desirable to have at least two strings for one's bow.

Solon J. Buck

The National Archives

THE CHALLENGE OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS[1]

UNTIL RECENTLY historians tackled piecemeal and without any comprehensive plan the task of organizing and protecting the world's treasury of historical materials. Anything less than the energetic co-operation of international scholarship united upon a systematic program foredoomed such efforts to failure. Now the apocalypse of violence through which we are living has shaken us out of our apathy. The historian sees in the Second World War a menace to the past which is his province as well as a threat to the present way of life. Were our civilization, forged in the American and French Revolutions, to be destroyed, the chances of the records of that civilization surviving would be slender indeed.

Perhaps it is still too early to toll for archives and books that are no more, that were destroyed in the invasions of Poland, Norway, Belgium, Holland, and France. Various accounts have come out of these invasions. After the surrender of Leopold, the Pierlot government announced that it had saved 250 tons of foreign office records, from which a white book is being compiled. On the other hand, it is known that the British and French burned their archives at the Berne legations and that the former felt impelled to destroy their secret archives in Bucharest and Sofia. During the panic of May 16 caused by news of the break in the French front, employees of the Quai d'Orsay lighted huge bonfires along the Seine with great bundles of secret documents and other archives hurled out of the windows of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All day and all night the bonfires of archives burned. Others doubtless suffered the same fate, for it is hardly credible that, during the demoralization attendant upon the French retreat, archives were moved to safer zones but war tanks were left to rust in warehouses. Doubtless serious damage was done to historical records under bombardment in ruined Warsaw and Rotterdam and in the battered fortress of London. We know that the Louvain Library and a goodly portion of the London University and Bristol libraries have been destroyed. In addition to such destruction, many records were seized by the invader. The

[1] This paper was read at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York in December, 1940. The author is indebted to a number of scholars for criticism and suggestions. Mr. Herbert A. Kellar, director of the McCormick Historical Association, was especially helpful.

Germans claimed that parachute troops captured the diplomatic archives of the Netherlands, and proceeded to utilize them to justify their invasion. Similar convenient "discoveries" followed the Polish and Norwegian conquests, and both invader and invaded have already resorted to the publication of color books. Just how many of the treasures of the French National Archives and the Bibliothèque Nationale have escaped the Nazis' fine-toothed comb? In addition to destruction and capture, many records were hastily removed. Included are many legation records together with those of the secretariat of the League of Nations, which, fearing an invasion of Switzerland, moved its archives to Vichy for safekeeping, and, after the German military successes in France, shipped them back to Geneva. Then they closed shop and went home. Are the League records still intact?

The air war has demonstrated that the major European depositories have no real protection against direct hits by high explosives and that they lie in constant danger of destruction by fire from incendiary bombs. Americans can learn much from the desperate archival situation abroad.

First, recent experiences abroad point to the imprudence of concentrating all national archives in one central location, however protected from bombardment. No archives building has as yet been constructed with concrete protection as solid as the Maginot Line. Today we need to re-evaluate the advantages of centralized archival housing which set in with the French Revolution and which was responsible for the preservation by the state of many archival treasures. Neither France nor Great Britain, where centralized housing was accelerated through the activities of the Public Record Office and the office of the Master of the Rolls, have consistently followed the path of centralization. In the former country separate ministerial archives have continued to expand. In Great Britain the trend toward centralization is now being reversed. The *Report* of the Royal Commission of 1910 disclosed the existence of a sizeable reaction against the centralization of national records; a considerable demand for decentralization was stimulated by the activities of the local war records committees in the First World War. The beginning of the Second World War made it necessary to move some thousand tons of the most important records of the Public Record Office to depositories set up in the countryside. This was a prudent act, as in recent months bombs have hit the Public Record Office, Somerset

House, County Hall, the Inner Temple Library, and the British Museum, and that great depository of municipal archives—the Guildhall has been wrecked. Now, where a country is quickly and completely subjugated, as were Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium, it probably makes no difference whether the records are centralized, as at Copenhagen, or distributed, as is the case in Belgium, in nine depositories in the chief provincial centers. The panicky efforts at removal of the Amsterdam archives to locations outside the city or the sandbagging of the archives at Leyden were tragically futile gestures. Indeed, it is not unlikely that, with the hasty partition of Roumania, at least some of her regional archives have fallen to Russia, Hungary, and Bulgaria respectively. Nevertheless, it does seem patent today that complete centralization of archives invites their total loss through destruction or capture. Regional archives offer irrefutable advantages of safety and convenience. Furthermore, in certain European nations there is a decided advantage in preserving archival depositories in districts which have retained autonomous privileges or distinct cultural traditions. In this country it is quite apparent that the National Archives does not have the physical facilities to house the entire bulk of our federal records nor offer advantages to investigators comparable with properly administered regional archives. In the course of time it will become increasingly necessary for the National Archives to concentrate upon central office records, particularly of historical and inactive items. Ultimately the setting up of regional archives for the agencies of the federal government operating outside the national capital would seem to be a practical solution of the problem of housing our federal archives. Archivists will doubtless profit from the forthcoming survey of the National Archives conducted under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council.

A second lesson from the European war is that microphotography is of increasing importance as insurance against the destruction of archives. If microcopying had been in more widespread use in the diplomatic service, then, when the necessity arose of destroying foreign office or legation records to prevent their seizure, a few packing cases or even valises, packed with film, could doubtless have been transferred to safer zones. Certainly all archives now in threatened belligerent zones should be microfilmed. In the case of British records, the film could be sent to Canada or to the Library of Congress for the duration of the war, if necessary under seal. Magna

Charta shuttling between the New York World's Fair and the Congressional library is symbolic of the fate of historical treasures under the new world order. Film not only can be duplicated, thereby increasing the chance of survival many times, but, as Dr. Vernon Tate has pointed out, also serves as insurance against the alteration of archival material. Where Dutch, Polish, and Norwegian archives were seized and portions edited and published by the invader, there could have been no more effective check upon tampering than to have located in advance in safe or neutral zones photographic copies of the originals. With the war emergency in mind, there was held early this summer in Washington a conference on microcopying, which, before adjourning, set up a continuation committee to compile want lists and to investigate the possibility of immediate copying in Europe. A very extensive list of suggested materials to be microcopied has been compiled. Data on thirty-five countries has been gathered with over two hundred pages dealing with Great Britain alone, and an exploratory program is now being carried on. But up to the time this paper was written no specific copying was done. It is clear that we must move far more rapidly than we have to date if we are to protect historical records from the ever-widening orbit of warfare and destruction.

Among microfilm projects launched in America in recent years for the copying of European manuscripts and printed books have been the following: (1) the project for filming the items in Pollard and Redgrave's *Short-Title Catalogue;* (2) the University of Michigan Law School project for filming chancery decrees in the Public Record Office; (3) the copying of Brussels manuscript material for the Library of Congress acting for the Modern Language Association, as well as of items from the Bibliothèque Nationale, Vatican Library, and Staatsbibliothek in Berlin; (4) early eighteenth century English periodicals; (5) the Harvard University project for filming foreign newspapers, which, with few exceptions, begin with files for 1938; (6) the University of California project for filming British Naval Office lists; (7) the microfilming for the Library of Congress of selected letters from the Foreign Office series in the Public Record Office; (8) microfilming of the British House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1801-1900.

Other projects have been inaugurated for the microcopying of Western Hemisphere materials. Among these should be mentioned the project to arrange and microfilm the records of the work relief

activities of the federal government outside of Washington. The Library of Congress has secured microfilm copies of material in Latin-American archives. Many thousands of pages of records relating to New Mexico and the Southwest located in the National Archives at Mexico City have been microcopied for the University of New Mexico. Materials gathered from the whole country relating to the history of the lower South, 1820-1880, have been filmed for the University of Texas. The Committee of the Littleton-Griswold Fund of the American Historical Association, in addition to sponsoring the publication of colonial judicial sources in a series known as *American Legal Records,* has encouraged projects for microcopying of colonial court minute books. Films have been made of judicial materials in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and coastal Virginia. The American Documentation Institute, which in 1937 assumed the functions of Bibliofilm Service, now microcopies materials in the Library of Congress. Despite requirements of national defense, we should continue technical improvements in microphotography. European armament programs have kept the optical companies abroad running at full-load capacity, so that relatively little time or attention is being devoted to microphotographic equipment or the actual filming of materials. Let us hope that situation will not arise in this country.

The advantages of microphotography are now well established. It is the cheapest copying process that has been devised to date. The NRA and AAA hearings, amounting to some 300,000 pages, were copied for about a dozen libraries at a little over $400 a set, or one-seventh of a cent a page, while a hectograph copy would have cost $6,000, and a printed edition involved an outlay of half a million dollars. The *Maryland Gazette,* 1745-1820, microcopied by the Yale University Press, has been distributed at $95 for a complete set. With this compare the cost of a single year's bound photostats of the invaluable *South Carolina Gazette,* distributed by the Charleston Library Society to a handful of subscribers able to afford the tariff of about $350 for one year's issues. Actually a year's file of a newspaper can be microcopied satisfactorily for less than the cost of binding it. Research foundations are beginning to realize that for the expense involved in underwriting the field work abroad of one investigator engaged in an examination, let us say, of certain foreign newspaper files, such files and all others that he could possibly examine in a limited study in the field, could be microcopied and made available at strategic centers of learning in this country where they

could be studied by a great many less fortunate research workers. Current conditions abroad are rendering research outside this country ever more precarious. Of the total number of grants-in-aid awarded by the Social Science Research Council in 1940 only six appointees were to engage in foreign travel. Foundations in the near future may find it more productive to make institutional grants for microphotographic equipment instead of individual grants for research and travel.[2] Doctoral theses of five universities are now being filmed in Microfilm Abstracts. The estimated costs of filming the Ph.D. manuscript, storing the negative, and printing and distributing an abstract to a select list of some two hundred is $15. For microprint publication the cost will be slightly more. Any chance of slicing the printer's bill for Ph.D. theses will be welcome news to graduate students. In many cases their dissertations will enjoy about as wide a reading public in microfilm as they would have in printed form.

Microfilm saves valuable storage space—anywhere from eighty-five to ninety-seven per cent of the space necessary to house original archives. As such, it may constitute the practical solution of the problem of reduction of archival materials. The present program of the WPA to microfilm all important records for permanent preservation and then list such records for disposal as useless papers will be, according to Dr. Tate, "the first to employ microphotography systematically in a program to reduce in bulk and preserve the administrative records of the Federal Government." And to safeguard, we must eliminate. To say that nothing must be destroyed is a counsel of perfection, as we do not have adequate housing for the vast bulk of our records and there is no likelihood that our housing will ever catch up with the present rate of multiplication of archives. As our governmental activities continue to mount it is likely that routine records, time sheets, duplicates and triplicates, etc., will be systematically destroyed after microcopies are made.[3] In addition to advantages of economy and space-saving, microfilm made of cellulose acetate will last; if properly cared for in a reasonably humid atmosphere, it will certainly outlast by many years our present crop of wood pulp

[2] See "Microphotography for Scholarly Purposes," *Report of An Inquiry by the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning*, (July, 1940).

[3] See Philip C. Brooks, "The Selection of Records for Preservation," THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, III (October, 1940), 221. In Great Britain today many old records are being utilized to satisfy the urgent demand for old paper in the manufacture of munitions. British Records Association, Technical Section, *Bulletin*, No. 7 (October, 1939).

newspapers, or documents written with impermanent ink or pencil on poor quality wood pulp paper.

Nevertheless, no large-scale program of microcopying should be instituted without making allowance for the disadvantages of that process. The available reading machines still have serious defects. The lenses are satisfactory for medium and low reduction, but not for the high reduction required in newspaper copying, particularly of the smaller type used in our colonial papers. Where ink is faded, paper stained, or writing cramped, as in much of the seventeenth century manuscript materials of the American colonies, microcopying is not yet signally successful. It is highly desirable at present to keep to sixteen diameters reduction if you want clear, sharp images.[4] But at times so low a reduction involves inconveniences in handling copy, and definitely rules out for the present such economical approaches as filming of a double page, large folio size, on a single frame of 16 mm. film. The best results today are being obtained with the more expensive 35 mm. film, although copying on 16 mm. has been done satisfactorily for library cards. The film footage required in copying material on 16 mm., using full width film, is less than half that on 35 mm. Thus, employing 16 mm., it was possible to photograph the complete set of the General Sessions minutes of Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1723-1782, a total of 1,500 pages on fifteen feet of film and at a cost of about $1.50. But the reduction amounted to about twenty-eight diameters instead of sixteen diameters and therefore too great for the present commercial reading machines. Where loose file papers which do not follow any specific sequence are filmed, the reader has considerable difficulty in locating particular items on the reel, although the reverse is true in using minute books, journals, account books, etc. The travelling scholar engaged in bulk copying may suffer some inconvenience owing to the necessity of frequently reloading his miniature Leica, Zeiss Contax, Exacta, or Argus camera, which hold only five feet of 35 mm. film. Cameras like the Folmer-Graflex holding a hundred feet or more of film and designed to operate like a single-shot motion picture camera, are still considerably beyond the means of the average scholar. On the other hand, the cost of microphotographic equipment is now coming down, and low-priced reading machines will shortly be available, among them the Students' Microfilm Reader, simple to operate and especially suited

[4] Dr. Tate has made some fifty diameter reductions which were perfectly clear when reprojected to size. He concedes, however, that the subject matter was ideal.

for short runs. High reduction ratios in microcopying require a high degree of skill. Mistakes in focusing, exposing, and processing at ten diameters of reduction may not be serious, but the same errors would be fatal in reductions of twenty diameters.

It is generally conceded that reading of microfilm produces considerably more eye fatigue than the ordinary reading of print on paper, although, as Dr. Tate points out, "we are seriously handicapped by the lack of a suitable measure for determining legibility." As yet it has not been possible to eliminate entirely such faults as blurred images, lack of sharpness, glare, and insufficient contrast. As a result, we find that a number of institutions still prefer photostats or the use of printed enlargements of microfilm. The Library of Congress, to take one example, has made available enlargement prints of its important series of transcripts of European archives, which are found more acceptable to the reader in that form. Similarly, that institution plans to make enlargement prints as soon as possible of its microfilm of Argentine and Mexican materials. In 1939 over twenty thousand pages of manuscripts of maritime and legal materials in the Public Record Office were photostated for the library. The Bancroft Library has printed its Mexican and Central American film to the enlargement size of eight by ten inches, and the University of New Mexico, finding that serious eyestrain was induced by using reading machines for foreign language material, decided to enlarge and print for permanent use its Southwestern photocopies.

Another approach to this problem is that offered by the recently formed Readex Microprint Corporation which reproduces microcopy on paper and calls it microprint. By means of a reading machine such material can be enlarged from ten to fifteen diameters, giving print which has both brightness and sharpness of definition. Microprint does not require the special care of film. Unlike film it is not subject to scratches, abrasions, and damage in unskilled hands, and is more convenient to file. Furthermore, the location of material is greatly simplified. It is therefore bound to attract increasing attention as an alternative method of inexpensive documentary reproduction, principally suited to the edition publication of upwards of twenty-five copies.[5] The present achievements with microprint indicate that when exposure controls become more accurate, when finer grain emulsions are evolved, and other possibilities more fully explored,

[5] See also John Tennant, "Readex Microprints," *Journal of Documentary Reproduction,* III (March, 1940), 66-70.

such as developing a binocular microscope using molded mirrors to read the microprint, even higher reductions are likely to be successfully obtained.

While microfilm is the cheapest method of documentary reproduction on the market today, other processes, such as the blueprint, photostat, photo-offset, and planograph processes offer advantages for special uses. The late Robert C. Binkley, in his valuable *Manual on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials*, compiled comparative costs for these various processes, including printing. Today the photo-offset typescript book offers decided advantages in cost for the limited edition market of doctoral dissertations and other scholarly monographs, and, more especially, for documentary publication where the market is even more restricted than for the monograph. Hence, the possibility that microphotography will entirely supplant printing of original documents still seems remote. The National Archives is considering a "sub-publication" plan for editing certain classes of documents and making microfilm copy of the transcript. Microcopying is justified as a low-cost medium for long runs of material under favorable conditions and where little selection is necessary. Where highly selective transcripts are desired and serious research is involved, notably in short runs, the photostat or typed transcript is still preferable, as the labor costs of microcopying will in such instances overbalance the economies of the filming process.

It is true that there is no longer justification for acquiring a scholarly reputation by putting between the covers of a book masses of documentary trivia. Nevertheless, there is still room for the printing of truly significant source materials—a task which requires editorial skills of selection and evaluation, collation, annotation, and the preparation of introductory and explanatory matter as well as workable indexes. The task of historical analysis and textual interpretation is quite different from the mere mechanical work of photographing. The advantages of having the printed word available for study and reference—particularly of highly technical items—still greatly outweigh those of film. The Ames Foundation's recently published *Proceedings before the Justices of the Peace in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, with fruitful commentaries by Bertha Haven Putnam and Theodore F. T. Plucknett, conclusively demonstrates the value to contemporary scholarship of such sound, wisely selected, documentary publications. Until reading machines are greatly perfected and within the price range of students, there is little likelihood

that scholars will discontinue the printing of important documents. Where large numbers of copies are needed, the cost advantages of microcopying tend to disappear. However, Readex Microprint comes in at this point and, in volume production, can supply copies at a fraction of a cent a page.[6] Far more documentary material could be made available to scholars if printing programs for outstanding sources were supplemented by microprint projects for masses of material which might require little more editorial work than that involved in suitable arrangement for reproduction. It should be clear, then, that conventional printing can no longer be regarded as the sole technique for reproducing research materials.

While as yet microcopying has not made serious inroads in the publishing business, there is no doubt that it already has influenced library management and will continue to do so. Large-scale plans for international library lending services, at best cumbersome, would seem to be replaced by film copying or microprint programs which obviate the need for the shipment of rare works or manuscripts. The war may have delayed the program in Germany of substituting for all interlibrary loans a central processing laboratory in Berlin which would immediately develop all microfilm copies made in any library and send them directly to scholars requesting the loan of materials. It is a source of comfort to scholars, in view of conditions abroad, that English books printed before 1640 are now available in this country in film. International lending programs are predicated upon continuous good-will between nations. Unhappily, this is too slender a foundation upon which to build a research program.[7]

In the disciplines of history and the social sciences we are confronted with a constantly enlarging body of research materials of both archival and printed character. In order to determine the facts about our social order and how it works we must make this material more serviceable to research. To that end we need both national and international inventory programs of manuscript materials and systematic and thorough bibliographies of published works. In this country there has long been a need for adequate inventories of federal, state, and

[6] The Sabin, Eames, and Church bibliographies are being made available by Readex Microprint at $50, and Stokes, *Iconography of Manhattan Island*, at $15. One of the most useful projects being undertaken by that organization is the microprinting of early American newspapers.

[7] See *Archives et Bibliothèques* (1935), No. 2, 110 (1937-1938), No. 4, 299-302. Space limitations do not permit consideration of motion pictures and sound recordings as new media for preservation of primary sources which the historian of contemporary society will find it extremely advantageous to utilize.

local archives and of historical manuscripts. About forty years ago the American Historical Association sponsored an inventory of state and local records. Though by no means definitive, the results were a decided fillip to historical scholarship. There still remained the need for a comprehensive inventory of our governmental records. To the performance of that task the Survey of Federal Archives, sponsored by the National Archives, and the Historical Records Survey were instituted late in 1935 under WPA auspices. In any evaluation of their accomplishments it must be kept in mind that they served a dual purpose: (1) to systematize our records; and (2) to make work for unemployed white-collar people. As regards the latter objective, the fact that for the past five years they have employed in excess of five thousand persons and expended impressive millions would indicate that they have played a not unimportant part in the employment and rehabilitation program of WPA. However, their experiences have not been entirely parallel. Because of the singleness of purpose of the Survey of Federal Archives, the actual field work was virtually completed after a year and a half of activity. Three hundred and three inventories have been published, and about fifty more approved for publication. Only recently this inventory program has been supplemented by the publication of a useful and compact *Guide to the Material in the National Archives*. The SFA program should be completed this coming June.

On the other hand, the HRS is not able to show after five years that it is anywhere near the completion of its program. As of August 1, 1940, inventories for some three hundred counties had appeared, less than one-tenth of the total number of counties in this country. About one hundred more have been approved for publication and the first drafts of a good many more are on file in local offices. In addition, forty volumes of town and municipal inventories have also been published. During recent months the rate of publication has been stepped up considerably. The failure of the HRS to make more rapid progress is due chiefly to its attacking at least a half-dozen large-scale projects at the same time instead of concentrating on the principal objective—the survey of state and local records—and then taking on the rest in order of importance. In the course of time attractive but expensive sidelines have been added, such as vital records studies, church inventories, surveys of religious congregations, historical bibliographies, including an ambitious "Annotated Bibliography of American History," state-by-state check lists of American

imprints, surveys of manuscript collections of historical societies, studies of county formations and boundary changes, calendars and transcripts, both of personal papers, such as the Alexander Graham Bell correspondence in the Volta Bureau, and of public records, such as the police jury minutes of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, indexes of local news in such papers as the Northampton *Hampshire Gazette* and the Burlington *Free Press*, inventories of American portraits and other paintings and painters, and a Congressional vote analysis. Now each of these projects may be commendable in itself and able to win local sponsorship, but unless we are to assume that funds for inventory work are inexhaustible, an assumption which, in the light of national defense requirements is very doubtful, there is serious risk that none will ever be completed. Other factors explaining the relatively slow progress of this project are the lack of properly qualified workers in many states owing to the increasingly stringent relief requirements of WPA, including the eighteen months' ruling, the contagious tendency in such programs to delay completing one job while expanding commitments in other directions, and the amount of time which the more highly trained personnel on the project, such as the state directors and their assistants, have had to expend cutting red tape, pacifying pressure groups, and trying to get some measure of co-operation from WPA officials. Finally, since September, 1939, the national office of HRS has become a technical rather than an administrative office and the control of the program is shared with local sponsors.

Mr. Sargent B. Child, who succeeded Dr. Luther Evans as director of the HRS, has manifested genuine concern with the problem of completing the county inventory surveys, and to that end has inaugurated a number of "key volumes" dealing with such subjects as county or town government in each state. These are meant to supplant the repetitious and prolix prefaces to the county inventories, the compiling of which has in the past seriously delayed the whole publication program. More condensed publications, such as the three-volume inventory for North Carolina, are to be commended. Similarly, compact state guides to manuscript depositories, of which one has already been published for Pennsylvania, are likely to prove very useful. If this vast series is ever to be made readily accessible to scholars, there will have to be a first-rate job of condensation done similar to the late J. Franklin Jameson's "Guide to the Items Relating to American History in the Reports of the English Historical

Manuscripts Commission and Their Appendixes,"[8] or Francis Bickley's guide to the manuscript commission reports.

With all our emphasis in recent years on inventory programs, the question might be appropriately raised as to whether we have abandoned calendaring as a research aid. True, there are difficulties inherent in a calendaring project,[9] and it is to be seriously doubted whether workers on relief projects have the necessary skills and historical training to engage in such tasks. But in major collections of governmental documents, as with the British state papers, and with vast series of court minute books, such as the pre-federal series of Supreme Court of Judicature minutes in New York, calendaring offers some advantages over microcopying and should be seriously considered where printing *in extenso* involves too vast an expenditure to be justified by the results.

The HRS and SFA have done more than any other enterprises in our history to quicken national and local interest in the preservation of our records. They have disclosed the existence of deplorable physical conditions in some archival depositories, such as the "Mounts Aetna and Vesuvius" in the New York Custom House sub-basement; they have located archives in a basement room in Abbeville, South Carolina, the floor of which was covered with a pool of oil from a leaking barrel, and important colonial judicial records covered with cement, in a similar location in Cambridge on Maryland's eastern shore. As a result, such conditions have been corrected in numerous instances. The recent formation of the Society of American Archivists, the drafting by a subcommittee of that society of a Proposed Uniform State Public Records Act to establish standards of safety and proper control of archives, the increasing emphasis today upon archival training, as evidenced in the program inaugurated for the present academic year at the American University, and the superior physical conditions for housing archives now obtaining at the National Archives and at Hartford, Annapolis, and Raleigh, to mention only a few outstanding locations, have all served to increase interest in the care and control of archives.

There is still much to be done in safeguarding our archives. In New York state, where there is no archival centralization, county record standards are not always acceptable, varying from the effi-

[8] American Historical Association, *Annual Report*, 1898, 611-700.

[9] See Worthington C. Ford, "On Calendaring Manuscripts," Bibliographical Society of America, *Papers*, IV (1909), 45-46.

ciently and properly housed archives at Goshen to the thoroughly deplorable archival conditions for older records obtaining at Jamaica. It may be surprising to some to learn that facilities for examining court records obtaining at such sparsely settled communities as Alfred, Maine, or Accomac, Virginia, are decidedly superior to those prevailing in the Court of General Sessions in this county. Nevertheless, judicial and county records are generally in much better condition than are municipal administrative archives, which, in this city and in many others throughout the land, lack proper housing and care. Only the vigilance of an historian prevented a great deal of the mayor's correspondence from the days of Tweed to those of Walker from recently being destroyed. Clipping books of the administration, collected at city expense and with city labor, have customarily been taken away by departing mayors. In this way students have been deprived of invaluable records of our municipal affairs, amounting for the present administration alone to several hundred volumes. In short, the need for administrative archives of inactive records of such large cities as New York is clearly indicated today.

Our archival resources in this country have suffered far more heavily from the indifference of bureaucracy than from fires, hurricanes, or torrential floods. From this city alone ample illustrations could be drawn. Some forty years ago there were sold as old paper many tons of records from the Barge Office in New York and the Hall of Records. An autograph dealer salvaged some, including custom house entries from 1790-1810 and a large portion of the file papers of the mayor's court of this city. For many years until his recent death he made a handsome living largely from the sale of holograph items culled from this collection. The failure to draw a hard-and-fast line between the personal papers of public officials and their official correspondence has hampered the effective use of administrative archives. Many officials have taken all significant items away with them on leaving office. Postmaster-General Brown of the Hoover régime burned his papers. The use of official papers has frequently been restricted by descendants of public officeholders. The papers of Albert Gallatin and Woodrow Wilson are illustrations of this. President Roosevelt, by making his papers available to students, has set a precedent which may quicken the conscience of public men hereafter.

One field of public archives that has deservedly received consid-

erable attention in recent years is that of legal records of courts and legislative bodies. The Committee on the Littleton-Griswold Fund of this association is committed to publishing judicial records of the original states prior to the published law reports in order to provide a documentary history of the development of our legal institutions. A field survey has been completed,[10] and, in addition to the three volumes already published, about a dozen others are scheduled to appear over the course of the next few years. It is encouraging to note in this connection that some of the law schools, notably New York University, Columbia, Harvard, and Michigan, have manifested interest in publishing the legal records of our origins and in promoting American legal history. Not merely legal historians but other social scientists as well are coming to recognize that the activities of the courts offer a fertile field of investigation. The increasing emphasis upon the common man and his ways will turn the historian more and more to court records. Mrs. Spruill's recent study of women in the old South, to take one example, demonstrates effectively the value of judicial records to the social historian.

Inventory programs are needed for the vast field of historical manuscripts, for there is increasing awareness today on the part of the social scientist of the value of such types of materials as family, church, business, and farm records. While the genealogist has long been a master of the technique of research, the social historian is finding it increasingly worth while to utilize family and personal papers. Allan Nevins' notable study of Rockefeller is the best of the recent examples. It is hoped that the church inventories now being carried on by the HRS of Baptist and Roman Catholic archives will, if completed, supplement the excellent survey made by William Henry Allison of Protestant church archives in this country.

As regards their systematic inventorying and effective utilization, nonpublic archives quite naturally offer a more serious problem than governmental records. Except in so far as certain classes of records are required to be kept for tax purposes and, more recently, to comply with the record-keeping provisions of the wage-and-hour legislation, they are in general outside the field of public control. Yet their importance to social scientists is becoming increasingly evident today. Europe has pointed the way in the preservation of business records. The example of the Krupp works in establishing the first

[10] See Richard B. Morris, *Early American Court Records: A Publication Program* (New York, 1940), *Anglo-American Legal History* Series.

modern private business archives in Essen in 1905 was followed by other German industries. In the following year the first central business archives was set up in Cologne for accumulating by gift the old business records of mining, manufacturing, banking, and shipping enterprises. Similar institutions sprang up in Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands before the First World War. In this connection it is of interest to note that the 1937 meeting of the Archives Section of the Society of Magyar Librarians and Archivists was held in the home offices of one of Hungary's great iron works. In England as recently as 1934 there was organized a Council for the Preservation of Business Archives, affiliated with the British Records Association.

In this country leadership in the organization and preservation of business records was assumed by the Business Historical Society, organized in Boston in 1925. This society has urged that certain classes of business records relating to accounting, purchasing, production, inventory, labor and personnel, sales, advertising, statistics, and general finance be preserved because of their inestimable value to economic historians. It also recommended the preparation of firm diaries detailing important events in the life of an enterprise. The recent formation of the American Economic History Association, the proposed Industrial History Society, and the founding of local groups devoted to economic history in Indiana and Minnesota are all heartening signs of a broadening of interest in the preservation and study of business records in this country. In recent years much attention has been devoted especially to the subject of price data; in this country notably by Professors Warren and Pearson and Dr. Anne Bezanson and her collaborators; for Europe, by the International Scientific Committee on Price History, whose publications of findings on English prices and wages have begun with the recent issuance of the first volume on price tables in the Mercantile Era.

Largely as the result of recent emphasis upon economic history important business collections have been accumulated by institutions or are in the process of systematic organization by some of our larger business corporations. The Baker Library, with its notable collection of material relating to the American textile industry, including the Slater collection, and to foreign trade, in which category fall the John Jacob Astor papers utilized by Mr. Porter, is perhaps outstanding for the nineteenth century. The Essex Institute of Salem, with its important collection of maritime materials and items relating to the oriental trade, the New York and Pennsylvania Historical Societies

—the latter with its notable Hollingsworth Collection,[11] the Carter Brown Library and Newport Historical Society, to mention merely a few of the outstanding depositories, have valuable collections on commerce and industry for the eighteenth century. Regional collections are also in process of formation, notably at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh, where records of steel products and foundry companies are being gathered, and a start has been made to collect and preserve business manuscripts in the South in such institutions as the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, Duke and North Carolina Universities, and the University of South Carolina, which only recently acquired important data relative to cotton raising in the nineteenth century.

A number of business firms have begun to set up company history files—the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Standard Statistics, the International Nickel Company, and the Hardware Mutual Casualty Company are but a few. In Germany, business firms, especially banking firms, have frequently undertaken the preparation of volumes devoted to the development of their particular enterprise, in this way preserving valuable data on business history.[12] In recent years some American firms, such as the Philadelphia advertising firm of Ayer, have undertaken publications based on their archives. The invaluable archives of such railroads as the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific, available in the James J. Hill Reference Library in St. Paul and the company's general offices in Chicago, and the Illinois Central, whose records were studied by Paul Wallace Gates,[13] are of prime importance for the economic historian. Dun and Bradstreet, whose New York archives are a mine of information on business credit conditions, have in course of preparation a volume commemorating their centenary. Professor Albion's excellent study of the port of New York, 1815-1860, illustrates the value of nineteenth century commercial and maritime archives for historian and economist. The increasing recognition being accorded to the role of labor in our industrial society serves to emphasize the

[11] See Historical Records Survey, "Descriptive Report on the Hollingsworth Collection in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania" (Typescript, Philadelphia, 1938)—a copy on deposit with the society.

[12] Such a volume is *Die Bayerische Staatsbank, 1780-1930.*

[13] *The Illinois Central Railroad and Its Colonization Work* (Cambridge, 1934). Many of the early records of this railroad were destroyed by fire in 1871. Many of the Baltimore and Ohio records are believed to have suffered a similar fate.

need for the systematic organization and preservation of trade union archives and the encouragement of studies based upon such primary materials.

The research worker interested in the location of business records should not overlook the special libraries. The most recent edition of the *Special Libraries Directory of the United States and Canada* shows a great increase in the number of specialized collections listed since the *Directory* was first published in 1921. Of 1,154 libraries listed, from one-third to one-half are of business organizations or trade associations. Out of 233 special libraries listed for New York state, 179 represent business firms or economic associations, some of which, like the ubiquitous National Association of Manufacturers, whose history is now being written, should be a fertile field for the research worker. In a current survey being undertaken of materials relating to national defense, the resources of special libraries occupy a conspicuous place.

Special libraries are indispensable to historical scholars in other fields. We need only mention the libraries of Baptist material at Hamilton, New York, and Chester, Pennsylvania, and the libraries of material on freemasonry at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Washington, Boston, and Philadelphia, as outstanding illustrations of important special collections. Such important depositories as the Huntington Library and the William L. Clements Library are today well known to the historical profession.[14]

More elusive but equally significant for the economic historian are the records of American agriculture contained in farmers' diaries, account books of rural stores, mills, elevators, stockyards, tobacco warehouses, and cotton gins, the rural newspaper, and the land office. The role of labor-saving machinery in American agricultural history can be studied in the archives of the McCormick Historical Library. As a matter of fact, the McCormick Reaper Company records, running from 1831, when the reaper was invented, until the merger with other concerns to form the International Harvester Company in 1902, is considered one of the most complete collections of individual business and corporate enterprise to be found in this country. The records of the great farmers' organizations, such as the American Society of Equity, are especially important to track down. But in many instances, as with the records of the Patrons of Husbandry,

[14] See D. C. McMurtrie, *A Suggested Program for Augmenting Materials for Research in American Libraries* (Evanston, Illinois, 1939).

important data have been thoughtlessly destroyed. A few years ago four truck loads of records of the early days of the Grange in the form of letters, copies of reports, etc. were destroyed. Definitely fitting into this picture is the institution of the mail order house with its close relation to farm life and rural purchases. Fortunately, files of mail order catalogues are available, and, as Mr. Cohen has demonstrated in his recent study of the Sears Roebuck catalogue, they can illuminate a significant page of our social history as well as provide a good deal of innocent amusement at the expense of the past.[15] In addition to mail order house records, those of the larger retail units are worth increased attention. Forthcoming studies of Marshall Field and R. H. Macy are awaited, but attractive possibilities remain in this field.

Although we are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of farm tenancy, its story, as Everett E. Edwards has shown, is often unrecorded, resting in considerable part on local custom and oral agreements. Aside from leases sometimes filed with county clerks, there is nowhere a single group of records on this subject.[16] A recent development of interest to students of farm archives, and one which offers a new method of research for the agricultural historian, is the *Wisconsin Domesday Book*.[17]

One indubitable result of the present military tension throughout the world has been the rediscovery on the part of historians of the importance of military history and the relation of the epochal military campaign to social and cultural achievements. Total war is making the civilian more keenly aware of the importance of studying past warfare and its effects on civilian society. The establishment of the *International Review of Military History* by a subcommission of the International Congress of Historical Sciences and the activities in this country of the American Military Institute will doubtless give renewed interest to the subject of military archives.

[15] For many years the Montgomery Ward catalogue carried the notation on the cover, "The Original Grange Supply House." In catalogue No. 38, published in 1885, the following statement appears: "Our business was organized in 1872 to meet the wants of the Patrons of Husbandry from whom we have received our main support. We do not, however, from prudential reasons, refuse the patronage of any person. The more goods we handle the cheaper we can sell them."

[16] As regards farm journals, the United States Department of Agriculture has a manuscript, "List of American Agricultural Journals," prepared by the late Stephen Conrad Stuntz. Among the forthcoming projects of Readex Microprint is the microprinting of a selected list of publications in agricultural history.

[17] See Joseph Schafer, "The Wisconsin Domesday Book," *Agricultural History*, XIV (January, 1940), 23-32; "A Rural Life of a Western State," in J. F. Willard and C. B. Goodykoontz, eds., *The Trans-Mississippi West* (Boulder, Colorado, 1930), 291-308.

The great increase in the annual publication of material of historical interest challenges us to a reconsideration of our present bibliographical techniques. At least four thousand historical publications appeared annually at the outbreak of the Second World War.[18] For France alone Messrs. Caron and Jaryc indicated in their *Répertoire des periodiques de langue française* (Paris, 1935) about seven hundred periodicals of historical interest were being published. This takes no account of the thousands of monographs and documentary publications. A recent inventory of official publications of American counties lists 5,248 items.[19] Up to the present time we have approached this problem either through the device of the highly selective guide, such as the bibliography prepared by Professor Dutcher and others entitled, *A Guide to Historical Literature*, in which, in the compass of some twelve hundred pages, the world's historical works are arranged according to systematic plan, or, in order to keep *au courant*, through that interesting experience in international co-operation, *The International Bibliography of the Historical Sciences*. The first type of bibliography holds little for the trained scholar; for the neophyte in historical matters selected bibliographies in sound textbooks will probably be more helpful. The second type of bibliography, which seeks to present a comprehensive view of the world's annual output, fails on the grounds of subjectivity and incompleteness. Until 1937 material on postwar history was not included in the *International Bibliography;* each national committee excluded from the list all polemic and propaganda. Therefore, as the editors are the first to admit, we really do not have a full bibliography, but rather a mirror of "national tastes in historiography, relating to the recent and current." The history of the Western Hemisphere has been cavalierly dealt with in the *International Bibliography*, as are Asia and Africa, represented by a "Selección Moderada." Out of 5,851 entries listed for 1935 (which appeared, by the way, in 1938) only 142 items related to the original thirteen colonies or the history of the United States, as against 4,430 items for the same area in Griffiin's *Writings on American History for 1935*. The *International Bibliography*, while useful in special fields of European history, has been especially inadequate on the documentary and biographical side of

[18] See P. Caron and M. Jaryc, *World List of Historical Periodicals and Bibliographies* (New York, 1939).

[19] J. G. Hodgson, ed., *The Official Publications of American Counties—A Union List* (Fort Collins, Colorado, 1937).

American history. For the American, British, and French historians the annual bibliographies of Miss Grace Gardner Griffin, of A. A. Milne, and of Caron and Stein will continue to be used far more frequently than the *International Bibliography*. In this connection, it is of interest to note that the Historical Records Survey is planning to publish an annual report of accessions of historical manuscripts by historical agencies in this country which will parallel the function of *Writings on American History* for printed items.

While co-operative efforts have not always been signally successful in producing comprehensive bibliographies (historians await with interest the completion of the "Annotated Bibliography of American History," a WPA project under the direction of Dr. George McFarland), historical journals such as the *Economic History Review* and the *Journal of Modern History* continue to furnish us with valuable classified bibliographies to the current literature. Extensive topical and regional bibliographies have been produced in recent years. In the first category should be mentioned the critical work of Bemis and Griffin, *Guide to the Diplomatic History of the United States 1775-1921* (Washington, D.C., 1935), G. E. Manwaring's thorough and admirably planned *Bibliography of British Naval History* (London, 1930), and Stephan and Leube's indispensable bibliography of modern church history.[20] The First World War produced a mass of bibliographical items which the Hoover War Library at Stanford has endeavoured to preserve and systematize and to which Almond and Lutz have provided a useful bibliographical guide. It also stimulated some excellent bibliographical studies, notably those of Camille Bloch for France and of M. E. Bulkley for the United Kingdom, and valuable documentary collections or guides, such as those of Leland and Mereness and of Hubert Hall. For the Second World War documentary and bibliographical activities in America are already well under way. The War Documentation Service, sponsored by the Philadelphia regional group, has published a check list. Other organizations, such as the Hoover Library, the Yale University Library, and the A.L.A. Committee on the Importation of Books, are attempting to provide adequate documentation. A good deal of attention is also being devoted to an analysis of radio broadcasts and war propaganda generally. The Princeton Listening Center is checking on short-wave broadcasts to determine their content and influence. Washington and Lee Univer-

[20] *Handbuch der Kirchengeschichte*, Teil 4, *Die Neuzeit* (Tübingen, 1931).

sity is setting up a research division known as the Propaganda Promotion Archives. The publications of the Institute of Propaganda Analysis demonstrate that in many respects the subtlest and most insidious form of propaganda is propaganda analysis itself. Madge and Harrisson's *Mass-Observation's Weekly Intelligence Service* is an important contribution to the recording of trends in British opinion during the Second World War as are the Gallup and Roper polls in this country. But generalizations on public opinion must be cautiously accepted, for recent polls have shown the hazards of statistical inference from current samplings,[21] especially where the answer to the opinion question is unconsciously suggested by the phraseology or where the question leaves only two alternatives, neither of which may be desirable. Thorough war documentation includes, of course, a complete record of the activities of peace or antiwar groups and a record of peace aims as formulated at various stages of belligerency. Under the auspices of this association a "Guide to the Opinion-Forming Press of the United States" is in course of preparation.

National and regional bibliographies continue to flourish. Doubtless they are inspired by such models of national bibliographies as the classic of Dahlmann-Waitz, Pirenne's bibliography of Belgium, now available in a third edition, and the notable *Short-Title Catalogue of Books . . . 1475-1640*, now being continued by Donald Wing for the period, 1641-1700, as the initial publication venture of the newly-formed Index Society. Thorough local bibliographies such as the *Bibliographie alsacienne* and the *Bibliographie lorraine* are of great utility to the specialist, as are Morgan's bibliography of British history, 1700-1715, and the compilations of Williams, Davies, and Grose, and J. F. Kenney's *Sources for the Early History of Ireland.* Worthy of widespread emulation in the field of local history is Earl G. Swem's monumental *Virginia Historical Index*, two volumes, which locates subjects, persons, and places in a number of serials and other historical publications relating to Virginia.

The need for inventories and bibliographies of historical resources in leading urban centers is increasingly felt today. Such a study has already been published for historical materials in New York City prior to 1800. The union library list for the Philadelphia area, which

[21] Defending the Gallup poll, which erroneously reported a Willkie trend on the very eve of the 1940 presidential election, George Gallup admits that the experiment in a last-minute telegraphic poll did not work as "our interviewers were unable to find, early Sunday morning, the right proportion of low income people in the time allotted them."(!)

includes over three million titles available in some 150 library collections, will serve as a model for other regional union catalogues. B. M. Headicar and C. Fuller have compiled an inventory for the five important London collections, mainly in English, French, and German.[22] Such inventories and union lists can best be directed by urban bibliographical planning committees such as the one functioning in the Philadelphia area under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Other union catalogue projects are under way in this country, notably the great union catalogue of the Library of Congress. In addition to making resources more conveniently available to scholars, such union lists promote intelligent co-operation in institutional book-buying to the end that needless duplication may be avoided and resources strengthened on the basis of comparison of available materials in special fields. Union lists of periodicals and newspapers are constantly growing. Two supplements have already been issued to the *Union List of Serials in Libraries in the United States and Canada.* Three hundred fifty-one periodicals available in New York City for the period 1728-1870, few of which appear in Poole's *Index,* have been systematically indexed by a WPA project under the direction of the New York University library. This should prove of immense value to historians as well as students of American literature. As regards newspapers, Clarence S. Brigham's bibliography for the period, 1690-1820, published in the *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society, 1913-1937, has recently been supplemented by a union list, 1821-1936, compiled by Miss Winfred Gregory.[23]

If we are sufficiently prudent to preserve our records from loss and destruction, we must also be prepared to organize the constantly enlarging body of such research material. Aside from making records accessible through better housing and administration, microfilming, well-planned inventorying, calendaring, and selective documentary publication, we must be prepared to utilize such records effectively in the writing of history. There is good reason to fear that the flood of monographs and periodical literature is likely to overwhelm the digestive powers of individual scholars.[24] The Work Projects Ad-

[22] *A London Bibliography of the Social Sciences* (London, 1931-1932).

[23] See also Solon J. Buck, "The Status of Historical Bibliography in the United States," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography,* LXIII (October, 1939), 390-400.

[24] See David Owen, "Co-operative History," *Yale Review,* XXIV (1934-1935), 420-422; Hugo Andres Krüss, "Comment on Domine Le Savoir," *Archives et Bibliothèques* (1937-1938), No. 1, 7-12.

ministration as of May 1, 1939, announced that 5,137 research projects in the social sciences were being undertaken.[25] In the field of history these pieces of research ranged anywhere from "interviews with ex-slaves for the purpose of compiling a history of their experiences during slavery and the period of reconstruction" to a history of the legends and rumors concerning gold in California from 1530 to 1840. In addition, 2,244 projects were listed as being currently undertaken by American historians in the April, 1940, supplement to the *American Historical Review*. Apropos of this problem, the Committee of Ten of this association has recently suggested a division of labor between our leading historical reviews on the ground that the world's output of historical literature "is fast becoming too extensive for any one journal to review it all."

We are coming to realize that the analysis and evaluation of historical sources involve interdisciplinary techniques. The other social sciences have been conscripted in the recent production of encyclopedias or historical dictionaries and in our current crop of co-operative histories. One may be permitted the plausible inference that, while the large co-operative inventory programs now under way foreshadow more extensive co-operative histories than we have yet seen, it is likely that individual scholars will continue to make the most original and best integrated contributions. But whether as an individual or in co-operation with others, the seeker of a comprehensive view of history is profoundly dependent upon the research results of others, not alone in the field of history but in all the social sciences. Hence, we must improve the methods of assaying the quality of completed pieces of research in the various social sciences, of analysis of content, questioning premises, and testing conclusions. Book reviews, even in professional journals too often fail to perform this function satisfactorily, but emphasize minor details and avoid coming to grips with the larger implications of a study. Moreover as Arthur M. Schlesinger has recently pointed out, "they do not supply the need of reappraisal after the investigator's conclusions have been tested by the research of others." To that end the Social Science Research Council has been engaged in subjecting to critical analysis a list of studies published in the United States since the First World War, which authorities in the respective fields have declared to be of outstanding significance. In the field of American history Webb's

[25] See *Index of Research Projects*, Vols. I-III (Works Progress Administration, 1938, 1939).

The Great Plains was selected, and an appraisal written by Fred A. Shannon. The author in turn was given an opportunity for comment and rejoinder. More such studies are needed in the field of history in order that the technique of evaluation may be established on a firm foundation. This should lead ultimately, not only to improving the quality of scholarly book reviews, but also to the addition of regular reappraisal sections in our historical journals.

In addition to raising standards of appraisal of results in the social sciences, we need co-ordinated planning, both of programs for the reproduction of original documents and for directing the individual research of seminar paper, doctoral monograph, and post-doctoral study. Numerous research foundations as well as the graduate schools of our larger universities are all engaged in research programs which frequently overlap, thus involving unnecessary travel and wasteful duplication of research effort. What is needed is a central planning committee for proposing fields and subfields of research. In this way more genuine research co-operation might be obtained and duplication eliminated. Perhaps, too, through a proper distribution of subjects for doctoral and post-doctoral research, there could be avoided the assignment of topics for the M.A. and Ph.D. beyond the capacity of the investigator or the too frequent concentration upon pedagogic trivia or Czerny exercises. Even if somewhat unfair, there is still much substance in Archibald MacLeish's criticism of the Ph.D. thesis as "work done for the sake of doing work—perfectly conscientious, perfectly laborious, perfectly irresponsible."

As regards inventorying, calendaring, and documentary reproduction, we need an interdisciplinary clearing house for systematizing programs now being carried on without genuine co-operation, either between the respective disciplines of the social sciences or within the historical guild. Represented in such a clearing house might well be such groups as the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning of the National Research Council, the Sub-Committee on Research Materials of the Committee on Public Administration of the SSRC, the Public Records and Legal History Committees of the American Historical Association, the Committee for International Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Foreign Policy Association, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the American Documentation Institute, the Society of American

Archivists, the American Library Association, the Associations of State, Research, and College and Reference Libraries, the American Bibliographical Society, and representatives of the National Archives and the Library of Congress. To such a body could be confidently entrusted the task of co-ordinating the inventory, publication, and microcopying programs, as well as that of providing for a central listing of microfilm copies and the preservation of master negatives at a central depository.

Within the time limitations allotted this paper it was feasible merely to suggest rather than to explore some of the possibilities of improving our research techniques and our research opportunities. Our world is rapidly changing before our eyes. The Model T has given way to the Stuka bomber. But we historians are still largely applying the research techniques evolved in the golden era of Bancroft and Stubbs to interpreting the very latest "syllable of recorded time." Our historical and archival techniques must of necessity be drastically overhauled if we are to study and preserve the record of the momentous changes of these hurried and turbulent years and contribute an appraisal of modern life that will have a true measure of validity.

Richard B. Morris

The College of the City of New York

CONFEDERATE JUDICIAL RECORDS[1]

MY QUEST of the judicial records of the Confederate States began about fifteen years ago. At that time I was pursuing Confederate privateers from port to port. Their performances glamorously crossed the newspapers of 1861, and with less frequency and less glamor were found in the papers of subsequent years. But I also wanted facts and details which could only be ascertained from the proceedings before the prize commissioners and from the decisions of the Confederate States District Courts in Admiralty. No one, and no published bibliography or list, could tell me whether the Confederate Court records had survived, and if so where they were located. Naturally, one would think of the record rooms of the present United States District Courts.

My first search was at Charleston, one of the principal home ports of the privateers. Here my inquiries were coldly and even impatiently received, and no search of the record rooms was made. Later I developed a defensive against the thinly veiled hostility of clerks who didn't want to be bothered, and a persistence that often brought success. However, as to Charleston, my subsequent researches have led me to believe that searches there would have been fruitless. Next I went to New Orleans, where, after a few weeks in the *Crescent,* the two *Deltas,* and the *Bee,* I turned again from newspapers to thoughts of records. I approached the clerk of the United States court with my problem. He laughed me to scorn on Confederate records but this time I was not so easily rebuffed. I asked permission to examine the books. We went into the adjoining record room where the walls were lined with numbered volumes. In order to get a start I pulled down a volume at random; and imagine my surprise, and the even greater surprise if not chagrin of the clerk, when I opened the cost docket of the Confederate States District Court for the Eastern Division of the District of Louisiana. The clerk frantically opened the adjacent volumes but we found no more Confederate records. He sent me with one of his assistants into the attic, where thousands and thousands of original papers in small bundles were heaped on shelves and on the floor, in a disorder which could not have been much worse if they had been dropped by a propaganda airplane from an altitude of several thousand feet. And the dirt! Well, we found nothing!

[1] A paper read at the fourth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Montgomery, Alabama, November 11, 1940.

But the cost docket supplied many of the missing points, and I was content.

The discovery of the cost docket inspired confidence and I went shortly to Savannah, where I received the same story of no records, but this time in the post office attic I found a dry goods box filled with Confederate record books. The box was in a corner covered with boards and dirt; but inside I found the admiralty minute book for the Southern Division of the District of Georgia, containing the prize proceedings instituted by certain privateersmen.

All of this was back in 1925 and 1926. In discussing these finds with scholars I was amazed to find a general ignorance of even the existence of Confederate States district courts; and after the fatigue and boredom of reading proof and making index for the *Confederate Privateers* was past, I decided to tell the world about Confederate courts. I began this self-imposed bit of martyrdom by sending forth a questionnaire to each and every clerk of United States Courts within the former limits of the Confederate States. Most of them returned negative replies. The courthouse had burned and all old records were destroyed was a favorite theme song. Only two or three clerks admitted any knowledge of Confederate records. Then, as opportunity presented, I visited these courts at various times during the next ten years, and in almost every instance found some Confederate records. Only in Atlanta, Richmond, and Mobile were the Confederate records so filed that the clerks could produce them instantly. The records which I had unearthed a few years before in Savannah, however, had been kept accessible by the clerk.

At Knoxville a very courteous clerk said he'd never heard of such records but called in a deputy clerk who had been in the office for many years and under several clerks. This lady remembered that the clerk who was in office when she was first employed, was always looking for Confederate records but could never find any. She was sure that if there had been any among the archives of the court, he would have located them. Nevertheless, I entered the record room and mounted the ladder to work the top shelves first, and in about an hour I found the minute book of the Confederate States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Before leaving Knoxville I decided to search the county courthouse for state and county records. The chief justice of Tennessee had assured me that no courts whatsoever sat in Tennessee during the war. However, in the Supreme Court rooms I found the minutes of that court for 1861-1862,

and in the circuit and chancery court rooms found the full records of these courts from 1861 to the summer of 1863, when Knoxville was captured.

In Tallahassee, despite negative assuredness by the clerk, a short search in the attic revealed minutes for the Middle and Apalachicola Divisions and fragmentary records for the Eastern and Western Divisions of the District of Florida. In Raleigh, North Carolina, the rough minutes of the District Court for the Division of Pamlico were found sandwiched between commissioners' record books of the 1820's. In Newbern, North Carolina, the finished minutes for Pamlico were found neatly and properly filed in the vault but unknown.

Once, when driving through Abingdon, Virginia, I smelled Confederate records as I passed the post office. The Confederate Court never sat at Abingdon and I was not on a research expedition, but I turned promptly into the curb. The post office clerk told me where to find the clerk of court. This very amiable fellow said he was sure he had no Confederate records, but agreed to visit the attic with me. There to his consternation the first book I picked up was the order book of the Confederate States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. A further look about revealed twenty-six boxes of original case papers. In passing the capitol in Washington I smelled Confederate records, and in the attic of the Senate wing found the record book of the District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in the package of papers introduced in the impeachment trial of Judge Humphreys. This package had no appearance of having been opened since the trial in 1862.

Some books and loose records of the Districts of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, were, of course, produced instanter. After some digging in an old index, I found quite a volume of court records for South Carolina in the Old Records Division of the Adjutant General's Office in the Munitions Building in Washington. Here also were found great quantities of Congressional papers, which were very helpful to me in developing the history of territorial government in Arizona and in explaining some hitherto obscure phases of the Supreme Court controversy.

This was all before the federal archives surveys were undertaken. The dirt, dust, and oblivion of decades had settled over these records. No one appears to have disturbed them save perhaps to kick or wheelbarrow them from one corner of an attic to the other, or from

the basement to the attic. It is then no wonder that nothing was ever obtained by writing for it. To this statement there is one shining exception. Letters addressed to the history department at the University of New Mexico and to the historical societies of Arizona and New Mexico arrived upon a field already interested in the territorial affairs of the Confederate territory of Arizona, and brought me a wealth of data on the district and probate courts at La Mesilla, the seat of territorial government.

The first draft of my work on the Confederate Courts was finished in 1930 and underwent its last complete rewriting in 1936; but the process of revision has continued by piecemeal to the last page proof, which, by the time this is read to you, I trust will be in the hands of the publisher. The manuscript as submitted to the Harvard University Press contained, as appendices, registers of the state supreme, circuit, chancery, and municipal courts; and of the Confederate States Supreme Court, district, territorial, and military courts. These registers summarized all of the personnel and much of the statistical data I had developed; and showed the act under which the court was organized, the names of the judges and principal officers, the time and place of holding court, and the location of reports and records. The press decided that the registers would have to be omitted in order to bring the book within reasonable bounds, and *Justice-in-Grey* is expected to arrive in January, 1941, with information as to Confederate records worked into the innumerable footnotes of its approximately seven hundred pages.

Wishing to check my researches against the discoveries of the WPA surveys, I wrote to our friend, Dr. Hamer, who very generously sent me a special report on the location and contents of Confederate court records found by the Survey of Federal Archives. This calendar of records was very complete, listing not only records known to be Confederate but also those which might contain Confederate entries sandwiched between United States records. In general, I had already seen the records listed; in a few instances it seemed desirable to revisit certain courts, where loose records had been uncovered that I had not seen. Here I found a fly in the ointment. The workers identified the papers and their filing locations as well as could be expected of them; but when attempt was made by me, with some help from the assistant clerks, to relocate the listed papers, they could not in many instances be found. This was probably the result of office shifting after the survey was made. The court clerks are busy

with current affairs and dead records interest very few of them. The old books and case papers form no part of their daily business, and naturally take on the character of excess baggage to be bandied about according to convenience.

Whether the answer for this is the extraction of obsolete records from the court files and their concentration in the National Archives, or not, I shall not presume to determine. I can see good argument for maintaining them *in situ* and also for herding them together in Washington. But if the judicial records are to stay in the court files, I think that they should be cleaned, placed in definite order, filed in proper containers, and kept so. This situation is not going to be generally achieved, in my opinion, until federal maintenance funds are made annually available under the inspection, if not supervision, of the National Archives.

William M. Robinson, Jr.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

EMMETT J. LEAHY, Editor
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

Special Collections in the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace, by Nina Almond and Harold Henry Fisher. (Stanford University, 1940. xiv and 111 pages.)[1]

Aware of the difficulty experienced by Andrew D. White in his study of the French Revolution because of the disappearance of contemporary fugitive material, Herbert Hoover determined in 1914 to collect and preserve such material for the World War period. After the war, because of his belief that "the most important aspect of the century was perhaps not the war so much as the consequences of the war, that is, the social, economic, and political currents which had sprung from it," he decided to expand the scope of his collection to include material for subsequent years; and he expects that the work of collection will continue "until these social and economic currents have run their course and have reached again some common elements of stability." In his collecting, first abroad and then in the United States, Mr. Hoover was aided by a host of associates, including at one time fifteen hundred army officers who served under his direction after the war in the work of the Supreme Economic Council. This process of collecting, especially in the United States, was extended to include manuscripts and archival materials; books, pamphlets, and other reference materials were then obtained; and next there were acquired by gift or purchase the holdings of other collectors with parallel interests. This volume is a guide to 273 numbered special collections that had found their way into the Hoover library by August 30, 1939, the descriptions of which are divided among the following four main groups: international collections (33), multinational collections (22), national and regional collections (209), and collections recently acquired (9).

Archives and manuscripts, it is learned from the excellent introduction to the guide, are retained in the Hoover library in collections as they are described in the guide, but the other material in the collections is distributed for administrative reasons into nine groups based chiefly on physical form: (1) publications of governments, (2) miscellaneous books and pamphlets, (3) newspapers, (4) serials, (5) organization and society publications, (6) posters and photographs, (7) maps and charts, (8) films, and (9) currency and medals. The provenance of material so distributed has been indicated by bookplates and other identifying marks.

The guide is an extremely valuable publication, well organized, well indexed, and well printed, and it is packed with information regarding a most important assemblage of material. Like all guides, however, it fails to provide

[1] This title was briefly noticed in the April, 1940, issue.

all the information that might be desired by every user, and a few suggestions are offered for the consideration of the compilers of the later editions that are promised.

By way of additions, there might be provided the answers to certain questions to be expected from persons not familiar with the Hoover library. Are all the collections described, with the exception of those closed because they are being organized, open without restrictions for research? What catalogues, lists, and other tools are available to the investigator who goes to the library? Of which of these can copies be obtained for use in the investigator's own study? What facilities are available for providing copies of items desired? It would be helpful also if there could be added at least a note concerning collections now omitted from the guide because the period of secrecy imposed by the donor has not yet run; if identifications or accounts of their activities could be provided without exception for the individuals and agencies mentioned; and if a statement of the quantity of the material and an indication of the chronological period covered could be supplied for the descriptions of collections in which they are now missing.

Because the Hoover library contains such a wide range of archival and manuscript material—archives of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, records of the American Relief Administration, the United States Food Administration, and other agencies, papers of Herbert Hoover as Secretary of Commerce and as President of the United States, and papers and files of numerous prominent individuals and officials, to mention but a few examples —the compilers of a guide to such material are faced with difficult problems in preparing adequate descriptions of it. The compilers of a guide to material in a public archives may state merely that the material originated with a certain official or government agency, and the assumption would be that the material was official in character. In describing such heterogeneous collections as those in the Hoover library, which is a private institution, the compilers need to be more specific, however, to indicate whether manuscripts of government origin are personal papers of an official, copies of official documents, or the official documents themselves, and, if the last is the case, how they came into private hands. Such information is necessary for archivists in other institutions and for investigators who would appraise the value of the material for their purposes, but it is lacking in this guide. In the description of collection 226, "Records of the United States Food Administration," for example, it is not clear what constitutes the "papers of the Wheat Export Company, the United States Grain Corporation, the Council of National Defense, the Federal Trade Commission, the War Industries Board, the War Trade Board." Are they original papers removed from the files of these agencies, and, if so, by whom, and why? Are they original papers sent by these agencies to the Food Administration and therefore a part of its files, and, if so, by whom were they removed, and why? Or are they, as is more probable, copies or duplicates of such

papers that were assembled in some individual's private files? The answers will not be found in this guide. Again, in the same description there are listed "papers" of a number of officials of the United States Food Administration. Are they the private papers of these officials carefully segregated from their official files? Or do they represent files of administrators who, like administrators for a century before them, failed to distinguish between papers accumulated by themselves as individuals and those accumulated in their capacities as government officials?

Matters of phraseology can raise even more questions in descriptions such as that of "The Jay Calvin Huston Collection" (No. 79), which lists "typewritten reports and memoranda by Consul Huston on conditions in China" (Huston was consul in China from 1923 to 1932), or that of the collection labeled "Intelligence Reports on Italy" (No. 129), which reads "Typewritten reports on the political, military, and naval conditions in Italy during the Armistice period, particularly October-December 1918. Compiled by the United States Intelligence Service, Military Attaché's Office, United States Embassy, Rome." These descriptions and perhaps ten others noted at random seem to refer to material that would duplicate material in the files of the State or War Departments that is not generally available for consultation. Is this material innocuous and not as confidential as it seems? Or does the Hoover library have available, since no restrictions are indicated, copies of material that is closed to investigators in Washington? And if so, does this point, on the one hand, to the need for stricter laws regarding the retention of confidential material by government officials, or, on the other hand, to the need for a more liberal policy by government agencies in making available records that need no longer be kept confidential? Whatever the answers may be, it is obvious that the scholar who wishes to write of the World War period from government records will need to supplement his consultation of material in the National Archives and elsewhere in Washington with an examination of material of government origin in the Hoover library.

Now that the world is entering upon what may be another cycle of war, revolution, and peace, this guide serves as a timely reminder to American archivists to place in readiness for use material of the First World War and after in their custody, to collect and preserve ephemeral material of the present cycle, and to see to the preservation of records created during the present emergency. It is significant that most of the material described in this guide that seems to have been once archival in character originated in the United States. Public archivists should see that officials, particularly those recruited from outside the government for emergency work, know of the existence and functions of archival agencies so that the officials will not feel impelled to take away with them for purposes of preservation when they return to private life records of administrative or historical value accumulated during their government service. Not all such records will find their way into so safe a haven as the Hoover library.

This volume is not for sale but is distributed to college and university libraries and to a limited number of scholars and large public libraries. Application for copies should be made directly to the Hoover library.

HERBERT E. ANGEL

The National Archives

Hayes Memorial Library, *Annual Report, 1939-40.* (Fremont. 1940. Pp. 31.)

This report is of special interest to the reviewer because it reveals similarities in the policies and organization of the Hayes Memorial Library with those being developed at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. The Hayes library is assembling manuscript and printed materials of the period 1865-1898, with the books and papers of a president of the United States forming the nucleus of the collection. It is endeavoring to serve the community of its location by preserving the records of the Sandusky Valley and Northwest Ohio. Finally, it is taking charge of the Birchard Library's collection of museum items. The Roosevelt library is likewise based on the books and papers of a president, it is interested in the history of its locality, and it also houses a museum collection.

The program at the Hayes library includes the organization of a union catalogue in subject or class arrangement of every imprint within its period, the collection of auxiliary bibliographical materials by film or other methods of reproduction and the compilation of a master list of manuscript collections. Particularly encouraging is the report of the acquisition of microfilm copies of such collections as the William Henry Smith papers from the Indiana Historical Society. Also, encouraging is the microfilming of the Hayes collection at the Hayes Memorial Library presumably for the dual purpose of further guaranteeing the preservation of this collection and of making the films available to those in distant places through the medium of interlibrary loan.

That due attention is being paid to the acquisition of materials of the opposition is happily noted in the announcement of the purchase of the film files of the Democratic *Washington Post* for the years of the Hayes administration. When librarians of endowed institutions intelligently collect materials on both sides of a question, an essential feature in the building of any research institution, history is safe in their hands.

To the reviewer the program set forth in this report is one of a progressive and dynamic institution utilizing the most modern techniques. As a whole it makes intelligent decentralization possible at a time when large institutions everywhere are becoming unwieldy and fast reaching the saturation point. Its enlightened policies, if carried to their logical end should develop at Fremont the one great center of source material for the history of the period of Reconstruction.

FRED W. SHIPMAN

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Eighteenth Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission, 1938-1940. The North Carolina Historical Commission, *Bulletin,* No. 40. (Raleigh. 1940. Pp. 44.)

That the opening of the new and enlarged quarters for the North Carolina Historical Commission has given a great stimulation to popular interest in that institution is evidenced by the fact that sixteen closely printed pages of its *Eighteenth Biennial Report* are given over to a description of new accessions —printed material, manuscripts, and museum items, nearly all of which were gifts. Substantial progress has been made in the cataloguing and indexing which must precede effective use of manuscripts, as is shown by an increase in the number of reference calls from 500 during the 1924-1926 biennium, to 3,918 during the past two years. Assistance given by the NYA and Historical Records Survey projects is acknowledged; also, the notable financial contributions made by patriotic societies for the repair and binding of early records. North Carolina is the first state to complete the publication of inventories of county records compiled by the Historical Records Survey, the three volumes having been issued by the North Carolina Historical Commission. Other interesting activities discussed in this report include the historical markers program, the new Hall of History, the creation of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, and research on Fort Raleigh.

One reason for the outstanding success of the North Carolina Historical Commission as compared with other institutions of similar scope is that the successive secretaries have never been satisfied with past accomplishments. Dr. C. C. Crittenden's discussion of a program for the future is especially helpful and suggestive.

MARGARET C. NORTON

Illinois State Library

30 Bericht des Schweizerischen Wirtschaftsarchivs in Basel für das Jahr, 1939. (Basle. 1940. Pp. 16.)

The year reported has a double significance; it marks the thirtieth year since the establishment of the Swiss Economic Archives as a division of the state archives at Basle, and the completion and occupation of quarters in the new college building. The report is divided into six sections: a description of the new building, equipment, etc., with three photographs of the exterior, the search room, and a stack area plus a floor plan; a report on a program for the selection and preservation of business archives; a narration of the work done; a summary of accessions and services rendered; a list of contributing firms; and lastly a listing of projects and activities in co-operation with other scientific organizations.

The new national gallery of art in Washington has been referred to as John Russel Pope's *vale* as an architect and at the same time it has been sug-

gested that there one has an euphemistic indication of what the National Archives is to Mr. Pope's career. Be that as it may, planners of new archival structures will seek to avoid the forbiddingly costly features of the National Archives building and its equipment without at the same time becoming involved in some inadequate if cheaper alternative. Between such a fearsome Scylla and damaging Charybdis, such planners can find a reasonably safe passage in the charts and plans not only for the several newer depositories in this country but also for those at Prague, Potsdam, Marburg, and now at Basle. The plan of the Bohemian Provincial Archives at Prague would be most serviceable and financially obtainable for the archives of any American state or for regional archives of the federal government; that as Basle is well worth study in planning smaller and perhaps specialized institutions. The building at Prague has been described in some detail elsewhere by the reviewer.

The storage vaults at Basle are below the ground level of the new college building; their ceilings and walls are reinforced concrete. Presumably, filtered light is admitted through shafts. The twelve thousand or so running feet of shelf space utilize the same steel equipment found at the Archives of the Reich at Potsdam, the Prussian Privy State Archives at Berlin Dahlem, the new Archives of the State at Rome and the Hungarian Royal State Archives at Budapest. Such equipment differs from that used at the National Archives of the United States in that adjustable steel shelves are suspended outward from center steel uprights; these uprights cannot support drawers. From the photographs it is evident that flat vertical filing in fabricated cartons is practiced which of course is fully acceptable.

In view of the appropriations and facilities provided in recent years for archival work, there is cause for more than a mild surmise that many worth while and overdue projects are not begun or are left undone. Several decades ago a study of archival buildings to be sponsored by the federal government was proposed but rejected by Congress. Since then ample facilities and staffs have been created particularly in Washington, which make it possible among other things to assemble, appraise, and report periodically on plans and critiques of modern depositories. Recent attention to emergency storage facilities and auxiliary depositories brings such a program within the sphere of the immediately relevant. As such it is commended to the newly created Committee on the Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives and to those most directly concerned with buildings and storage facilities at Washington or in the states.

Those interested in business archives will profit from a reading of Part II of this report describing thirty years' experience in the collection and preservation of such archives, the problems encountered, and the solutions proposed.

EMMETT J. LEAHY

The National Archives

Tenth Annual Report of the Archivist, University of Virginia Library, for the Year 1939-40. (Charlottesville, Virginia. University of Virginia, 1940. Pp. 27.)

The reports of the archivist of the University of Virginia Library have always been worthy of more than passing attention. The issuance of the tenth and latest report, and a detailed index to the preceding ones may well give occasion to a review of the activities of the Archives Division, which has been under the capable direction of Mr. Lester J. Cappon during the decade. Taken together, the reports represent a real contribution to the history of archival science, since they well describe the inception and growth of an important institution which has developed its resources along broadly defined conceptions of archival material. In addition to the customary descriptions of acquisitions, the reports have often contained philosophical considerations of interest to the profession as well as bits of humor.

Some idea of the growth of the archives may be gained from the fact that it has grown from a collection of about two thousand pieces to one of about two million in the course of the decade. This material has been described from time to time in the reports; and as a bibliographical service this has been of inestimable value. It has been interesting to learn with the advent of each report the kinds of collections which were to be found in the Virginia community so rich in historical materials. Rendering these pieces accessible has not been the least accomplishment of the Archives Division; it has also stimulated a proper appreciation for some of the heretofore slighted historical materials and raised the interest in them that is essential to their preservation.

CHARLES W. PAAPE

Dominion of Canada. Report of the Public Archives for the Year 1939. (Ottawa. J. O. Patenaude, I.S.O., 1940. Pp. 138. $.50.)

The report of the Public Archives of Canada for 1939 consists of a summary of the year's activity by Gustave Lanctot, Dominion archivist; detailed reports of the divisions of the agency; a list of donations and donors; an appendix containing reproductions of the portrait of Wolfe as a young officer, by Benjamin West, and of the last letter of General Wolfe to his mother, August 31, 1759—two precious gifts of Queen Elizabeth made to the Public Archives during the memorable visit of the British sovereigns to Canada in 1939; a second appendix of ten miscellaneous historical documents, notably a deed of LaSalle, a letter of Governor Cornwallis, and a list of the members of the personnel of the North West Company in the 1790's; and a third appendix of seventy-six pages comprising a classified bibliography of manuscript and printed archives and historical records at the Public Archives of Canada relating to the Rebellion of 1837-1838.

The accessions of manuscripts (public archives and historical records) consisted chiefly of transcripts from Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec, from the

British Public Record Office, from various archival depositories and libraries in France, and from the Massachusetts archives and the historical societies of New York and Minnesota. Notable among these transcripts are the journals of David Thompson, 1789-1847, and of William Falconer of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1768-1769; documents relating to the Acadians in Massachusetts, 1755-1769; register of letters of Robert James Sanders of Albany, 1742-1758, who was engaged in fur smuggling with Montreal; correspondence of General Amherst, 1756-1761; and the papers of Lord Aylmer, 1830-1838, governor of Lower Canada. Scanty accessions of original manuscripts were made from the federal Department of Mines and Resources and Secretary of State and from miscellaneous sources.

During the year the Public Archives acquired more than 300 maps, 9,229 prints, drawings, and paintings, and several films, sound recordings, and museum objects.

The Public Archives completed and made available calendars of the State Papers of Lower Canada and of Upper Canada and of the Selkirk Papers as well as an indexed catalogue of World War photographs. Enlarged services were rendered to scholars and genealogists and to the public through exhibitions and the distribution of maps and publications.

A. R. Newsome

University of North Carolina

SHORTER NOTICES

EMMETT J. LEAHY, Editor
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

The long title of the *First Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States on the part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, 1939-1940* (United States Government Printing Office, 1941. Pp. 7) covers a brief description of the activities concerning that institution, turned over to the federal government July 4, 1940, after the close of the reported year. It is hoped that the architect's description of the building included in this report indicates a return to normalcy in the planning of adequate office facilities in archival structures. The cost of the building and equipment is given at $344,642.21. A photograph of the library and an appendix containing the resolutions establishing it, approved July 18, 1939, not 1839 as given in the report, are included. It is hardly necessary to add that in the establishment of this library, an eminent public servant has provided a most suitable means for rendering an account of his stewardship to the nation. There is no more fitting conclusion to the democratic process than the ultimate availability of the full record thereof.

Every user of ink will become better informed regarding his most important medium of expression through a careful reading of *Inks*, by C. E. Waters, Circular of the National Bureau of Standards C426 (United States Government Printing Office, 1940. Pp. ii, 77. $.15). This document meets a long felt need for a concise and illuminating treatise which explains the origin, use, and content of many different inks.

Mr. Waters' thorough treatment of the subject includes not only a discussion of ancient formulae but also indicates the modern method of manufacture together with a statement of the advantages and disadvantages of inks made from various important ingredients, such as carbon, diammonium hydroxyferrigallate, and silver, as well as the accepted iron gallotannate product which plays such an important part in our permanent record work.

Washable inks, quick-drying inks, invisible inks, and indelible inks, with many others of greater or less importance, are given exhaustive consideration. Inks for use on special materials in the field of plastics, glass, and metals are cited with suggestions regarding their use.

The effect of ageing and processes for restoration are treated in a thorough and conclusive manner. Detailed methods for testing these several types of ink are enumerated with explanations covering weights, measures, and necessary equipment for their manufacture. An extensive bibliography of printed material available in many libraries is listed for those interested.

We who are record-conscious will profit immensely by a thorough reading of this informative booklet.

HAROLD S. BURT

Examiner of Public Records
State of Connecticut

This article—Elgin G. Fassel, "Destruction of Life Office Records with Retention of Miniature Film Copies," in *Proceedings* of the 1939 Annual Conference of the Life Office Management Association (New York. 1939), pp. 36-49—by an assistant actuary of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is symptomatic of the widening interest in commercial circles of the possibilities of microfilming. The author, writing in terms of the records in the central office of an insurance corporation, strongly recommends the periodic microfilming of certain categories of those records with consequent destruction of the originals and preservation of the microfilm copies. Photographic equipment needed in a reduction program is briefly discussed and there are set forth in parallel columns the principal types of insurance records and recommended ages at which records belonging to those respective types should be microfilmed. Curiously, since no explanation of the exception is vouchsafed, the author advocates the permanent retention in their original form of company ledgers and policy registers. Eight "Practical Suggestions," such as prompt destruction of office duplicates of terminated policies coming into company possession, are offered. Reduction programs are self-liquidating, it is asserted, through release of filing space and equipment. Of four appendices three relate to physical and one to legal aspects of microfilming.

W. NEIL FRANKLIN

The National Archives

J. Ignacio Rubio Mañe, "El Archivo General de la Nación, México, D.F., República Mexicana," *Revista de Historia de América,* No. 9 (August, 1940), pp. 63-170, including two plans and two appendices; also published separately under the same title by Editorial "Cultura," México, D.F., 1940.

This article, monographic in proportions, is a concise description of the *Archivo General de la Nación* in Mexico City. The study is divided into four parts: an historical section tracing the development of the care and preservation of the records of the viceroyalty and the republic from 1550 to the present time; a list of viceregal secretaries, 1788-1821, and of directors of the General Archives, 1823-1940; a description of the physical layout and contents of the present establishment; and notes concerning archival publications. There are two appendices. One is a list of the present personnel; and the other, a reproduction of the *Proyecto de Ordenanzas* of 1792. This treatise offers a good picture of the evolution and present condition of the oldest and best known of the archival establishments of America.

The historical section describes the formation of the archives of New Spain, particularly the records of the office of the viceregal secretary. Dr. Rubio Mañe considers the files of this office to have formed the nucleus from which the *Archivo General* subsequently evolved. He provides new details concerning the administration of the colonial records, and his contribution is enhanced in value by including the text of Revilla Gigedo's *Proyecto* of 1792 in an appendix, and the architect's plans for remodelling part of Chapultepec to house the viceregal archives.

The author then narrates the vicissitudes through which the archives passed during the period of the movement for independence and since the establishment of the national government. Of particular interest is the discussion of its evolution since 1910. Here may be found information not yet available elsewhere in print concerning the recent developments in internal administration and relationship with other agencies of the Mexican government.

One of the most important parts is that which describes the modern establishment and its contents. Here the physical arrangement of the space in the national palace occupied by the *Archivo General* is discussed, followed by remarks upon the contents of the sections into which each floor is divided. An important feature is the brief inventory of the principal *fonds*, wherein recent accessions are noted. A floor plan clarifies the arrangement of the plant. Accompanying this part of the article is a paragraph concerning the library and its contents.

The last section, erroneously numbered V instead of IV, discusses the publication of archival material. Dr. Rubio Mañe divides productivity into three periods, 1847-1852, 1853-1857, and 1910-1936. It is significant that he omits discussion of the period from 1858 to 1910. This portion of the article is actually a critical bibliography, wherein the author distinguishes between those publications which were edited under official auspices and those produced privately.

The subdivision of the study into many numbered sections and subsections is somewhat confusing. Furthermore, failure to distinguish typographically between the major documentary *fonds* and their integral series is also to be deplored. In general, however, Dr. Rubio Mañe has made a distinct and constructive contribution to archival science, which is not only a credit to his country and profession but also a work which should serve as a model for the treatment of other archival establishments in Latin-America. However, from the checkered history of the *Archivo General*, one must regretfully conclude, that the existence of an official depository does not imply the safety of the records, unless those in charge are responsible and trained custodians receiving adequate moral and financial support from the government whose records they guard. The continuation of the present staff of well-trained scholars should contribute to the steady improvement of this valuable archival institution.

RALPH G. LOUNSBURY

The National Archives

The editorial board of the Archives of the Union of South Africa has released the second volume of the *Archives Yearbook for South African History*. (One volume in two. Capetown. Cape Times Ltd., 1939. xx, 193, and xvii, 205 pp.) The interest of this work falls more in the realm of history than archival science. Part I is entirely devoted to the publication of the completed portion of the final volume of Sir George Cory's work, "The Rise of South Africa." This sixth and last volume of Sir George's history was interrupted by his death on April 28, 1935. The six chapters printed deal primarily with Sir George Grey's administration, the establishment of the independent republics in the North, and the early history of the Church of England. The entire work covers the years to 1857.

Part II of the *Yearbook* is entitled "Die Vrystaatse Republiek en die Basoetoe-Vraagstuk" (The Free State Republic on the Basuto Question). Dr. J. J. G. Grobbelaar, the author, discusses the early nineteenth century conflict over the territory between the Caledon and Orange Rivers. The three Basuto Wars and the subsequent annexation of Basuto Land by the British are considered. The concluding chapter describes the results of the struggle in the development of the republic.

"A Series of Population Maps of the Colonies and the United States, 1625-1790," by Herman R. Friis (*The Geographical Review*, July, 1940, pp. 463-470) is condensed from his study with the same title and contains a comprehensive bibliography and additional maps which were issued in mimeographed form by the American Geographical Society. Mr. Friis has produced a creditable series of ten maps showing the growth and spread of population in the colonial period of the United States. Rural population is shown by dots, each of which represents approximately 200 inhabitants, while the urban areas with populations of upward of 3,000 are designated by graduated circles. The years selected are 1625, 1650, 1675, 1700, 1720, 1740, 1760, 1770, 1780, and 1790. The addition of pertinent place names, especially the urban centers shown individually, to at least one of the maps would have been a great aid to the reader and particularly to the foreign reader. There is also included a physiographic map which shows the natural barriers that retarded the westward movement as well as the gateways through which immigrants poured. The accompanying text presents a summary of the historical basis for the westward movement. A variety of materials was used in preparing this study of a phase of our country's growth that has never been presented in such detail.

CLARA EGLI LEGEAR

The Library of Congress

Sailing Vessels in the San Diego Trade: Bulletin No. 1 of the Maritime Research Society of San Diego (San Diego. 1940. Pp. 7. $.15) includes a short history of the port of San Diego with a table of the average time and vessels which made the best time between San Diego and principal ports. There

is also an alphabetical list of all foreign vessels and square riggers in the domestic trade touching at San Diego revealing the type of vessel, nationality, tonnage, and year of arrival.

Ohio Cherishes Her Rich Historic Tradition, The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (Columbus. 1940. Pp. 32) is an attractive pamphlet describing the society and its work. A list of the many other historical societies in Ohio is included.

NEWS NOTES

GASTON LITTON, Editor
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The fifth annual meeting of the Society will be held at Hartford, Connecticut, October 6 and 7, 1941, under the auspices of the Connecticut State Library. James Brewster, state librarian, as chairman of the local arrangements committee, will be host to the members and guests attending the sessions. Oliver W. Holmes, of the National Archives, is chairman of the program committee. It is hoped that special attention can be given at the meeting to business archives in view of the importance of Hartford as an industrial center. The work of the special committees on emergency activities of archivists will also be a subject for discussion.

Two events for members of this Society were scheduled and held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City, December 27-30, 1940. A tour by bus to Hyde Park on Sunday, December 29, to visit the newly established Franklin D. Roosevelt Library was made by twenty-five members of the Society and friends. Fred W. Shipman, director of the library, was the host to the party and conducted his guests through the new building and the grounds. The annual joint luncheon of the Society and the American Historical Association was held on Monday, December 30, at the Pennsylvania Hotel. W. Rex Crawford, of the Department of Sociology of the University of Pennsylvania, addressed the gathering on "The Useful Past." Professor Crawford was chairman of the research staff employed by the Social Science Research Council last summer to study the types and availability of materials for research in the social sciences in the National Archives. Waldo G. Leland, who was re-elected president of the Society at the Montgomery meeting, presided.

The second meeting of the Federal Records Conference under the auspices of the Society was held on the evening of January 29, 1941, in the third floor hearing room of the Federal Trade Commission building in Washington. The subject, "The Role of Records in Public Administration," was discussed by Ernst Posner, of the American University, Helen Chatfield, Treasury Department archivist, and Edna F. Poeppel, of the Federal Reserve Board. Dr. Posner summarized the history of record administration in Germany, and Miss Chatfield commented from the point of view of United States government records. The significance of modern practices in the management of business archives was emphasized by Miss Poeppel.

Committees for 1941

The following persons have accepted appointments to membership on the committees indicated for the year ending at the fifth annual meeting:

Special Committees on Emergency Activities

Protection of Archives Against Hazards of War: R. D. W. Connor, chairman; Julian P. Boyd, and Luther H. Evans.

Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives: Collas G. Harris, chairman; Sargent B. Child, and Margaret C. Norton.

History and Organization of Government Emergency Agencies: Solon J. Buck, chairman; Wayne C. Grover, Dan Lacy, Morris L. Radoff, and J. M. Scammell.

Collection and Preservation of Materials for the History of Emergencies: Herbert A. Kellar, chairman; C. C. Crittenden, and James W. Moffitt.

Regular Committees

Public Relations: William D. McCain, chairman; Herbert E. Angel, Edward J. Hughes, Grace Lee Nute, and Robert H. Slover.

International Relations: Samuel F. Bemis, chairman; Ignez B. C. d'Araujo, C. Graham Botha, Roscoe R. Hill, James F. Kenney, and Ernst Posner.

Terminology: Solon J. Buck, chairman; Nelson M. Blake, Thomas A. Knott, Olga Paul, and Theodore C. Pease.

Training of Archivists: Theodore C. Pease, chairman; Samuel F. Bemis, Lester J. Cappon, A. R. Newsome, Ernst Posner, Abbott Smith, and Clarence A. Walton.

Committee on Record Administration: E. J. Leahy, chairman; and Helen Chatfield.

Publication Policies of Archival Agencies: Leon de Valinger, Jr., chairman; C. C. Crittenden, Preston Edsall, Luther Evans, and Alice E. Smith.

Maps: S. W. Boggs, chairman; Lloyd Brown, Clara Egli LeGear, and W. L. G. Joerg.

Business Archives: William D. Overman, chairman; Lewis Atherton, William H. Galbraith, N. S. B. Gras, and Herbert Kellar.

Uniform State Legislation: A. R. Newsome, chairman; and Francis S. Philbrick.

Membership: Martin P. Claussen, chairman; Harold S. Burt, Charles M. Gates, Virginia Leddy, and Robert H. Slover.

Nominations: Lawrence C. Wroth, chairman; Christopher B. Coleman, and W. Neil Franklin.

Auditing: George H. Ryden, chairman; and David L. Darden.

Local Arrangements for Fifth Annual Meeting: James Brewster, chairman.

Program for Fifth Annual Meeting: Oliver W. Holmes, chairman; Harold S. Burt, Lester J. Cappon, Glenn H. Lathrop, and Robert W. Lovett.

Special Committee on Filing Equipment: Virginia Leddy, chairman.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Balance per Books

Balance on hand, December 31, 1938					$ 955.38
Income:					
New memberships:					
Individual	24	@	$ 5.00	$120.00	
Institutional	6	@	10.00	60.00	
Renewals:					
Individual					
Annual	175	@	5.00	$875.00	
Two years'	4	@	10.00	40.00	
Institutional					
Annual	27	@	10.00	$270.00	
Two years'	1	@	20.00	20.00	
Subscriptions:					
Annual[1]—New	18	@	5.00	$ 89.13	
Renewal	19	@	5.00	95.00	
Proceedings:					
Copies[2]	4	@	2.50	$ 11.50	
THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST					
Copies[3]	178	@	1.25	$107.27	
Reprints			2.45	2.45	
Registrations	103	@	.75	77.25	
Total income				$1,767.60	
Less: returned check and bank charge				5.45	
				1,762.15	
Total expenditures				1,529.74	
Net income					$ 232.41
Balance on hand, December 31, 1939					$1,187.79

[1] Includes one check on Canadian funds, cashed for $4.36 and English draft cashed for $4.77.

[2] Includes balance of payment by Miss Blanche LaDura of $1.50.

[3] Includes 100 extra copies of the July, 1939, issue of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST at $9.77.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Balance per books, December 31, 1938			$ 955.38
Deposits for 1939		$1,767.60	
Less:			
Returned check	$5.00		
Bank charge	.45	5.45	
Net deposits			$1,762.15
Total deposits			$2,717.53
Checks drawn			$1,529.74
Balance per books, December 31, 1939			$1,187.79

Balance per Bank

Balance per bank, December 31, 1938			$ 983.33
Less:			
Outstanding checks #64	$18.00		
#67	9.95		27.95
Balance per books, December 31, 1938			$ 955.38
Deposits for 1939		$1,767.60	
Less:			
Returned check	$ 5.00		
Bank charge	.45	5.45	
Net deposits			$1,762.15
Total			$2,717.53
Checks paid			$1,504.59
Balance per bank, December 31, 1939			$1,212.94
Less:			
Outstanding checks #106	$ 3.75		
#108	9.15		
#111	9.25		
#112	3.00		25.15
Balance per books, December 31, 1939			$1,187.79

Itemized Deposits

Total Deposits		$1,767.60
Deposits:		
February 4, 1939	$162.75	
March 6, 1939	4.77	
March 7, 1939	120.00	
March 31, 1939	70.00	
May 12, 1939	235.00	
May 27, 1939	173.75	
June 27, 1939	177.50	
July 27, 1939	137.50	
August 28, 1939	95.00	
November 1, 1939	330.95	
December 6, 1939	151.02	
December 27, 1939	109.36	$1,767.60
Less:		
Returned check Honolulu	$ 5.00	
Bank charge	.45	5.45
Net deposits for 1939		$1,762.15

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Expenditures under Budget

Secretary's office:		
Budget allowance for calendar year 1939		$ 225.00
Expenditures:		
Stenographic service	$100.75	
Post Office box	11.00	
Postage	24.50	
Telegrams	.56	
Letterheads, mimeographing	29.60	
Total expenditures		$ 166.41
Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939		$ 58.59
Treasurer's office:		
Budget allowance for calendar year 1939		$ 80.00

Expenditures:			
Stenographic and bookkeeping service	$ 75.00		
Postage	5.00		
Total expenditures			$ 80.00
Publication fund:			
Budget allowance for calendar year 1939			$1,100.00
THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, 4 issues			$1,027.67
Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939			$ 72.33
Committees:			
Budget allowance for calendar year 1939			$ 100.00
Expenditures:			
Committee on Membership:			
Stenographic service	$ 3.25		
Letterheads, etc.	17.80		
Mimeographing	2.78		
Postage	4.00		
		$27.83	
Committee on Nominations:			
Stenographic service	$ 1.00		
Postage	2.00		
Mimeographing	2.50		
		5.50	
Committee on Terminology:			
Stenographic service	$ 2.00		
Postage	2.00		
Mimeographing	9.00		
		13.00	
Total expenditures of committees			$ 46.33
Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939			$ 53.67
Committee on Uniform State Archival Legislation:[1]			
Travelling expenses	$91.50		
Luncheon	3.75		
Total expenditures		$95.25	

[1] Special appropriation of $200 voted at the council meeting on October 12, 1939.

Other officers and council:		
Unexpended balance authorized under budget for 1939		$ 10.00
Third Annual Meeting:		
Budget allowance for calendar year 1939		$ 100.00
Expenditures:		
Programs	$31.00	
Stenographic service	4.50	
Postage and programs	6.00	
Luncheons	18.65	
Dinners	45.32	
Badges	6.20	
Telephone	2.41	
Total expenditures		$ 114.08
Amount expended in excess of authorization under budget		$ 14.08

The National Archives

The *Sixth Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States* (101 pp.), just published, describes the activities of the National Archives during the fiscal year 1939-1940, including assistance rendered to the national defense program. The report is illustrated by a series of eleven reproductions of documents in the National Archives and includes among the appendices a newly issued set of regulations for the use of records and a list of publications based on material in the National Archives.

The records of the Washington office of the National Recovery Administration, with the exception of a few files in the custody of the Departments of Agriculture and Labor, are all now in the National Archives. Recent transfers include files relating to the organization and administration of the NRA; files concerned with the formation, amendment, and administration of codes; and reference and research files.

Among the records recently transferred to the National Archives from the General Land Office are letters received from surveyors general and from registers and receivers of land offices, 1803-1833; correspondence, leases, and other records relating to the War Department's supervision of lead and copper mines on the public domain in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, 1824-1847; and miscellaneous records of land offices in Arkansas, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, and Ohio, 1829-1920.

Recent additions to the growing body of agricultural records in the National Archives include the general correspondence files of the Extension Service and of its predecessor agencies, 1907-1933; correspondence of the

divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics dealing with agricultural finance, land economics, farm population and rural welfare, cotton, wool, and hay, feed, and seed, 1926-1931; and correspondence, reports, manuscripts of studies, and other records of the Division of Chemical Engineering Research, 1914-1929.

Among maps recently transferred to the National Archives are seventy-five items relating to the District of Columbia, 1791-1895, including the originals of Nicholas King's wharfing plans, 1797, and of his plats of the city of Washington, 1803; copies of township plats used by the General Land Office in examining mineral land patents, chiefly in the Southwest, 1870-1900; Reclamation Bureau plats showing farm units of irrigation projects in the Far West, 1907-1940; and Tennessee Valley Authority maps showing drainage, cultural features, and place names in the Tennessee River drainage basin, 1934-1940.

Photographic materials recently received by the National Archives include about three thousand negatives of photographs showing construction activities of the Corps of Engineers, 1875-1902, and a collection of forty-nine of the earliest motion-picture "nickelodeon" shows, 1894-1917, a gift of Thomas Armat.

Solon J. Buck, director of publications of the National Archives, is the author of an article entitled "The Living Past" which appeared in *Pennsylvania History*, VIII (January, 1941), 47-58. This article discusses the importance of "documentation," including the preservation and availability of archives, in the evolution of civilization.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

The director reports that the library has received a part of the papers, books, and special collections of the President. The manuscript materials include the papers of Mr. Roosevelt as assistant secretary of the navy, as governor of New York, and as candidate for vice president and president. A few files of the presidential papers have been received. President Roosevelt has placed in the library part of his collection of ship models and books on naval history. Several hundred museum items, consisting of gifts to the President, have also been accessioned. Manuscript materials received from sources other than the President include a collection of the papers of Harry Hopkins.

Work Projects Administration

The Regional Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in Salt Lake City is sponsoring under the Nationwide Research and Records Defense Project a work important to the national defense. The program includes preparation in each state under its jurisdiction of an index of all naturalizations

before September, 1906. The card index will be kept in the Salt Lake City office. The territory includes Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and parts of Nebraska, Idaho, and Nevada.

During the past year more than six tons of official records and manuscript materials have been collected by the Historical Records Survey from the various county offices in some eleven counties in New Mexico and placed in the official depository established by the Historical Society of New Mexico at the state university. These materials are now being assorted and filed.

Blair Flegal, formerly state supervisor of the Historical Records Survey for North Dakota and now state supervisor of the public records project, reports the recent compilation and publication of a *Bibliography of Theses at the University of North Dakota.*

The national office of the Historical Records Survey has received a grant of $5,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the purpose of providing assistance in editing the inventories of public records.

In co-operation with a committee of the American Historical Association and the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, the survey has been collecting information regarding current accessions of manuscripts by depositories throughout the country. The initial response to this effort has been gratifying, and if it continues it is planned to issue an annual volume listing current accessions, both of manuscripts and archives.

During the months of November, December, and January the survey has published inventories of the archives of thirty-five counties, nine towns and municipalities, and sixteen of the federal agencies in the states. In addition, sixteen church directories and archival guides were published, as well as nine guides and calendars relating to manuscripts. Four volumes of the American Imprints Inventory series and seventeen miscellaneous volumes have been published during the period.

A complete bibliography of the Historical Records Survey projects publications as of September 12, 1940, has been issued. This bibliography describes nearly a thousand separate publications. An attempt to meet the increasing demand for these volumes has been made by establishing regional depositories in each state which receive the publications of neighboring states. These regional depositories have been added to those which receive all Historical Records Survey publications.

The manual of instructions for preparing inventories of public records has been published in preliminary form and a final edition is in process of publication. This manual formalizes the four years' experience of the survey in preparing inventories of public records. A similar manual has been issued outlining in detail the procedures for preparing guides to manuscript depositories, guides to manuscript collections, and calendars and lists of a single collection. Although these manuals are of interest to archivists, no arrangements can be made at the present time for their general circulation.

General News

The New York Historical Society was the host to the members and friends of the Conference of State and Local Historical Societies on December 27, 1940, when the conference held its annual meeting in connection with the American Historical Association. At that session the plan of the policy committee of the conference was adopted. This plan proposed the abolition of the conference, which had been in existence since 1904, and the creation in its stead of the American Association for State and Local History. This change was effected because it was felt that there existed the need for a stronger organization that would include historical societies and agencies in the United States and Canada, and both individual and institutional memberships. C. C. Crittenden, who had served as chairman of the conference for the past two years, was elected to the office of president of the new association. Edward P. Alexander became the vice president and Dorothy C. Barck accepted temporarily the office of secretary-treasurer. Elected to the council were Dorothy C. Barck, George C. Brown, Sargent B. Child, Herbert A. Kellar, Ronald F. Lee, Harlow Lindley, James W. Moffitt, Roy F. Nichols, Jean Stephenson, and S. K. Stevens.

The Council of the American Historical Association has appointed a special Committee on the British Sessional Papers to study the possibilities of copying the House of Commons Reports, 1801 to 1900, for subsequent reproduction and use in this and other countries. It is fortunate for copying purposes that most, if not all, of these reports, which comprise some 4,000,000 pages, can be located in various depositories in the United States. No one institution, however, has a complete set. Edgar L. Erickson is chairman of the committee, which includes Milton R. Gutsch, Frank J. Klingberg, Warner F. Woodring, and C. W. deKiewiet.

The usefulness of microfilm copies has recently been extended by the development of a low-cost reader which has a particular appeal to students. While the cost of films has long been within the means of students, they have heretofore been virtually chained to the readers which only institutions can afford. With the advent of this new reader the advantages of microfilms are more generally available. The instrument, costing at present $32, is particularly adapted to home use and short runs of films. It will also find extensive use as an auxiliary reader, taking the place of the customary viewers, when the search is limited to matters of reference. An instrument such as this has long been on the "want" list of students and investigators who have discovered the advantages of microfilms. Dr. Vernon D. Tate of the National Archives, with the co-operation of the Spencer Lens Company of Buffalo, New York, was chiefly responsible for the development of the device.

The following changes in personnel have been reported: *Bancroft Library:* Vivienne Caire, on leave of absence for three months, has been replaced by Mrs. Mildred Luna; *Harvard University Archives:* Clifton K. Shipton, custodian, was elected librarian of the American Antiquarian Society which he will fill contemporaneously with his Harvard connection; *Mississippi Department of Archives and History:* William D. McCain, director, has been elected president of the State Library Association and chairman of the State Library Commission of Mississippi; *New York State Education Department,* Division of Archives and History: Hugh M. Flick, senior archivist, has enlisted in the 134th Medical Regiment and is now stationed at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, North Carolina; *Vermont Historical Society:* Edward A. Hoyt, to be librarian-curator, and Agnes K. Lawson, to be assistant librarian-curator; *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library:* James L. Whitehead, formerly instructor in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania, to be assistant archivist, and Eleanor McGonagle, formerly head cataloguer in the Tufts College Library, to be junior archivist.

The death of Dr. Joseph Schafer, since 1920 superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is noted with deep regret. He was an earnest advocate of "increased use of federal, state, and local archives" in the writing of history, and the archivist and student of local history may best pay their tribute to his memory by reading his stimulating articles on "Documenting Local History" (*Wisconsin Magazine of History,* v (1921-1922), 142-159), "The Microscopic Method Applied to History" (*Minnesota History Bulletin,* iv (February-May, 1921), 3-20), and "The Wisconsin Domesday Book" (*Wisconsin Magazine of History,* iv (1920-1921), 61-74).

California

A number of important acquisitions to the Bancroft Library of the University of California are reported by Director Herbert Ingram Priestley. The Fernández Leal Codex, an original pre-Cortesian manuscript depicting the story of a southern Mexican emigration dating from the fourteenth century, is the gift of W. W. Crocker. This document, valued at $50,000, is being studied by George Tompkins. Herbert E. Bolton, former director of the library, is preparing for publication another acquisition, an early manuscript copy of the Venegas "Noticia de la California." The records of the Miller and Lux organizations, which were important in shipping, cattle raising, and land enterprises on the Pacific coast have also been acquired. Other acquisitions being given preliminary examination are the records of the Guadalupe Quicksilver Mine, near San Jose, and the Kentfield papers, relating to a shipping firm of San Francisco. Mrs. Inez Mejia has contributed several hundred items of Aztec pottery.

The Bancroft Library has enlarged its space by some 200 square feet of

floor in the Edwards Stadium, which now contains the material of the Panama Pacific Exposition and several hundred journals and ledgers of the San Francisco Wholesale Dairy Produce Exchange.

Illinois

The Archives Division of the Illinois State Library has announced the recent gift by the Board of Supervisors of St. Clair County of the J. Nick Perrin Collection, comprising over five thousand documents relating to the French, British, and American régimes of Cahokia and to early St. Clair County at Belleville, dating from 1737 to 1850. The archives staff has not yet had time to explore the richness of this new accession, yet the collection is well known to historians and several descriptions have been published. In this collection is a volume entitled "Registre des Insinuations des Donations aux Siege des Illinois" which has entries covering the years 1737 to 1769. A translation of the "Registre" is being prepared by Josephine Boylan, district supervisor for a WPA museum project which used the volume in connection with the recent restoration work at Garrison Hill Cemetery.

The following articles by Margaret C. Norton, archivist of the Illinois State Library, are to be noted: "What the State Archives can do for the Business Man," *Chicago Filing Bulletin* (November, 1940); "How State Archives Serve the Public," *Birmingham News Age Herald,* November 10, 1940; "Archives and Libraries" in *Illinois Blue Book, 1939-1940,* 427-443; "The General Assembly and Its Records," *Illinois Libraries,* XXII (January, April, May, June, 1940), 25-29, 17-22, 22-28, 23-28.

Massachusetts

To Robert W. Lovett the Society is indebted for the information that the Harvard University Archives has acquired the papers of Francis E. Abbot (Harvard, A.B., 1859, and Ph.D., 1881), one-time editor of the *Index* and president of the National Liberal League.

The first edition of *A Pamphlet Prepared for the Information of Officers of Instruction and Administration* was published by the Harvard University Archives early in 1941. Clifford K. Shipton, custodian, is the author of an article, "Gold In Archives," *Harvard Alumni Bulletin,* XLIII (January 25, 1941), 469-473. Clarence E. Walton, assistant librarian in the Harvard College Library, gave a course on archives during the winter quarter in the Department of History at Harvard.

Mississippi

The offices of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History were moved from the new capitol to the recently constructed War Memorial Building on February 10, 1941. The department was originally organized

in the old capitol in 1902 and moved to the new capitol in 1903. Nearly thirty-seven years later the department is again moved back on the grounds of the old capitol into the War Memorial Building. The collections have been in the process of being moved for several months.

New Hampshire

The Dartmouth College Library, which collects Daniel Webster manuscripts, reports the recent acquisition of twenty unpublished letters of Webster belonging to the period from 1801 to 1818.

Ohio

The Hayes Memorial Library has added to its collection of letters of Rutherford B. Hayes, and also purchased, or received by gift, a number of papers of important figures in the Hayes period, among them being Schuyler Colfax, John Sherman, Benjamin Harrison, O. P. Morton, and B. H. Bristow. A rather unusual accession is the Mary Clemmer Ames correspondence which contains revealing personal letters from Justin S. Morrill, William H. Seward, and Schuyler Colfax.

Oklahoma

Recent accessions to the Oklahoma Historical Society include a collection of pictures and relics relating to railroad building in Oklahoma, and the personal files and collections of Judge C. Ross Hume, relating to attempts to form new counties in Oklahoma. The society lent to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City some samples of Choctaw pottery which are being displayed there currently. The state budget officer recently held a meeting of various departmental heads to discuss plans for filming noncurrent state records. The secretary of the society, James W. Moffitt, has made a survey of laws dealing with the acquisition and disposal of county records in the various states. The mezzanine floor in the society's newspaper stack room is being extended in order to take care of the newspapers which are being added to the collection at the rate of some six hundred bound volumes yearly. The collection now totals eighteen hundred bound volumes.

Vermont

The Vermont Historical Society reports that it has acquired the Dunham-Thompson papers which belong to the years 1824 and 1840 to 1842. This correspondence concerns the condition and history of many of the towns in the state. The Dunham correspondence has never been published. Thompson used his letters, although not fully, in his *Gazetteer of Vermont*, published in 1824, and in his *History*, published in 1842. This collection contains a great amount of valuable material hitherto unpublished on the local history of the state.

Virginia

Lester J. Cappon, consultant in history and archives at the University of Virginia, reports that the manuscript division of the university library has acquired the minute book of Byrd District school trustees board, 1871-1900, Goochland County, Virginia. The minute book is in two volumes.